

If Only We Could Just Believe!

Pastor James

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Father this morning we have gathered around Your Word, Your living Word, Your Son and we believe You are here with us. We know Your Spirit is in us, and I know Your Spirit is in me and as we hear, I pray Father we will hear Jesus because You said when the Spirit comes He will not speak about Himself, He will speak about You. He will not also speak of His own, He will speak what He hears. Speak to us today, we need to hear Father because You alone have the Words of life. Life, You came to give us life and first and foremost we receive that life by hearing. So, give us hearing ears, a heart that believes. Open the eyes of our understanding that we may know what is the hope of our calling in Christ Jesus. Help us to put aside everything else, everything else, keep our eyes fixed on You that You may speak and that even as You speak we hear. We surrender ourselves spirit soul and body at Your feet Lord. In Jesus name we pray, Amen. We turn to Joshua 1:8,

Joshua 1:8

⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

This, God is telling all generations to Joshua and through Joshua because God's Word is forever settled in the heavens. So, when He is speaking to Joshua He is speaking to all of us too. This is the core text. It is interesting some of the Books of the Bible not all Books of the Bible *Joshua 1:8* is the text on which the entire twenty-four chapter are built on. We have twenty-four chapters in the Book of Joshua, the entire narrative is built on this one verse. Twenty-eight chapters of what God did in the Book of Acts is built on *Acts 1:8*, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes. You shall receive power and then you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth," and you will see. In Chapter two He comes, witness in Jerusalem, Judea, later Philip in Samaria and by the time *Acts 28* ends there is Paul sitting in his own rented house under house arrest preaching the Word of God, teaching without any restraint to all who came to listen. He's reached practically the end of the Roman empire of the capital of the Roman Empire. We have twelve chapters of the Book of Daniel about things that will happen and it is all centered on one verse. *Daniel 1:8*. Simple, okay, I'm trying a little Math. It's rubbing on me from Pastor Vijay.

But here God is says, three things making it very simple. Think on it day and night. Speak according to what God has spoken, do according to what God has spoken. Think, speak, do, simple. When you meditate on the Book of the law, don't get perturbed. It basically means like when we live in the world and the Kingdom of God, all is based on laws. Every field. You want to prosper in any area even in this world, business, any area, there are laws that govern. And that law will work. Business world doesn't work on random. Last month, from number one Elon Musk crashed down two hundred billion Euros loss, right. He just did a few things, he's back to number two. In less than a month, his assets have gone up over hundred and fifty billion dollars because he was looking at the principles of how the market place works. There are laws on which the market place works. That's basically God is saying, it is not random. Everything that God has made when He's speaking, He's setting things into motion and there are laws on which these works. So, He says, meditate upon it day and night. Like, there is Deepika, we have a lawyer in our midst. You have the entire Indian Penal Code. So, what does a lawyer basically do? He's not learning the law by heart. He is meditating upon the law. So, when a case comes to him, he immediately knows which law to apply. That's how he gets a crook out. And most crooks get out if you have a good lawyer and that's why there's another day called a big day left, where no crook will get out because He will not judge by what He hears or what He sees. So, you need to realize that is basically what it means, okay. Meditate upon the Word of God and understand. When God said seek ye first the Kingdom of God what does it mean? It is because the Kingdom of God rules over the affairs of men. So, if you understand how the Kingdom of God works and now that we are saved, the Kingdom of God is within us.

If we understand how the Kingdom of God works, He says, "In this world, you can overcome." That's what it basically means. Meditating upon the His Word day and night, what to do, what not to do, the principles behind. Because otherwise if you see it only as the law, the Bible is very clear, the letter of the law kills but the Spirit gives life. It gives life. The whole purpose of this is that they will believe God. I keep saying over and over in every meeting, the entire purpose of preaching

the Word of God is that you have faith. Not in the preacher but about whom he is preaching. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God but now the Word of God we understand is Jesus Christ. That you would have faith in Christ. Our repentance is towards God but our faith is in Christ. Understand this difference very clearly in the New Covenant. *Acts 20:21*, I'm just refreshing your memory because God is the one who sets everything in motion through His Son and His Spirit and everything, violation is against God.

Acts 20:21

²¹Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, we turn in repentance towards God but if you want Salvation, restoration, revival, you name it, everything, it is all in Christ. All in Christ, everything God has done for mankind, He has done in His Son Jesus Christ. So, we turn faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. So, get this picture very clearly. That's why this word faith is so important in the Word of God because there is only one-way God will allow us to live. He says, "My righteous shall live by faith." Over and over again, three times in the New Covenant he says. You know the verse very well. Do you know all the references? Don't look at me, I'll ask you. Because this happens to be a class room. *Romans 1:17*, He says, "My righteous shall live by faith, My just shall live by faith." *Galatians 3:11*, He says, "My just shall live by faith." *Hebrews 10:38* He says, "My just shall live by faith." He says, "You know what, if you have been justified by your faith in Christ Jesus, that is how, we cannot be justified in any other way. We repent and turn to Jesus, we believe in what Jesus has done and God justifies us. We are justified by faith. That is *Romans 5:1* and we now have peace with God. Now that we are justified, we are called just by God. The chief justice of the highest court has declared you just, after that it doesn't matter who says anything. He's declared us just. Now, He says now that you are declared just, there is only one way you are allowed to live. You are allowed to live only by faith. In the Old Covenant, faith came from hearing and hearing the Word of God, which is true, the New Covenant to but in the New Covenant, the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, so the writer of Hebrews ill says, "Look unto Jesus," who is He? "The Author." And all the way till He completes, the Finisher of our faith. You don't have to worry about it. He is faithful to complete what He has begun but we have to be faithful to listen to what He says. It is not random okay. "Oh, He will finish." Don't be very sure. Read history, in the Bible, and you will see many unfinished lives. It is because in our free will we have to choose to obey God. So, in *1 John 5:19* this is what Scripture says.

1 John 5:19

¹⁹We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

That is the first thing you need to know. Do you know you are of God? Second thing you need to know is, in the world where He has left us, He didn't take us out the day we got saved. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. What does that mean that the world lies under the sway of the wicked one? That is the way they think, that is the way they speak, that is the way they do. The world has its own way of thinking, speaking and doing. And that's how the devil controls. The devil doesn't come and possess everybody. He doesn't have to but he controls the whole world through our thinking. How we think and how we speak and how we do. These three things, anybody controls, that person controls you. So, both operates the same way but we are of God but we also know the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. We are of God, then God gives us this promise or makes this statement in *1 John 5:4* that whatever is born of God overcomes the world.

1 John 5:4

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

How does he overcome the world? He overcomes because he changes the way he thinks, speaks and he does and what is that? It is our faith. That is why faith, for me personally, is the most important aspect of a believer's life. Faith that works through love but without faith you cannot even receive that love. Everything of God has to be received and the receiving point is faith. It is through faith we receive everything from God. So, if you come to *Hebrews 11:6* it says,

Hebrews 11:6

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

So, the simple question we need to ask first is, this morning and every morning, who is that you want to please? Faith is about pleasing God, sight is about pleasing self or others. So, faith is not going to come unless you are very clear, who do you chose to please? Who is that you want to please? because faith is connected with pleasing Him. In the revival meeting, I asked the children, rewrite the sentence using 'possible', instead of impossible use possible. It is possible to please God only by faith. It is possible but that is the only way possible. The question is, who do you want to please? Because people can be divided into three categories. Those who want to please themselves, those who want to please others, we call them people pleasers, and then there is this minority called, those who want to please God. So, the first thing we have to start each day is asking this question, who do I want to please? Who do you want to please? Self, others or God. Then only we need to move further because if we don't get this right, you can't move further in faith. You may use the principles of faith to get thing out of God but to please self and then after sometimes once that has been achieved, your faith life has stopped and you fall away. You have to allow Him to complete what He has begun. That's why this is so important that it is impossible to please Him. Who do you want to please? Whom do you want to please? That should be center focus of faith, 'Lord I want to please You,' because that attitude changes the way you read your Bible and the way you hear. It is very difficult for the devil to deceive you if your heart is focused on pleasing God otherwise he can tell you straight from Scripture, I mean the devil spoke to Jesus, he quoted scripture to Jesus but he could not deceive Jesus because Jesus came with one intention, "I want to please My Father." Behold it is written in the volume of the Book, I have come to do one thing. I want to please You, I want to do Your will. When that is the center of your life, deception becomes very difficult because the devil cannot touch yourself. Because the devil cannot touch yourself, the devil cannot touch you to please somebody else. Foremost, because your core being is that I want to please God. So, every morning, you know what, these things needs to be confessed.

That's why the Bible is talking about meditate and do not let it depart. This has to be our confession every morning, "Lord another day in the land of the living. It's a gift, thank You for life but Lord, help me to please You. I want to please You today." One day at a time. Take it one day at a time. Don't live tomorrow today. You will neither live tomorrow not today. Sufficient unto the day are the troubles thereof, therefore do not be anxious or worry about tomorrow but one day. We are only promised daily bread. That daily bread, that strength, that sustenance should be focused on pleasing God and I'm telling you, unlike man God is very easy to please. God is not a difficult person to please. You know to please God all you need is faith and He's a very forgiving Father. If you are doing something by faith and you don't do it exactly like your boss wanted, He's okay. All He's looking for is faith. When the Son of man comes every time, what He looks for, even this morning, He is looking for faith. Is there faith? He's looking for faith. It is a life. The faith we are talking about, like remember earlier I said faith comes from hearing. Meaning there are all kinds of faith, everybody lives by faith. There's nobody who does not live by faith. We are not talking about that, we are talking about the faith that comes from God because our God is a God of faith. If you turn with me to *Romans 3:3, 4*

Romans 3:3-4

³For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? ⁴ God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

What if some did not believe shall, their unbelief makes the faith of God without effect. All the people around, they don't believe. Does that make your faith without effect? Now, this is the faith of God. So, what you actually receive by hearing and when you believe, what you are receiving is the faith of God. It is not the faith of man. This is the faith of God because our God is a God of faith. We saw how He brought everything into being because He believe in what He says. So, He's a God of faith. What, shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? Verse 4, ***God forbid, yea let God be true, every man a liar.*** You need to get these into your hearts because in life, often in many places, you will have to stand alone. Joseph stood alone, at the end of his life, he proved every man a liar and God was true but when he was going through it, it looked he was the liar and every man was true but at the end God is proved true and every man was a liar. Daniel when he made those decisions, he's making it in faith. And at the end of the story, twelve chapters later Daniel proves every man is a liar and God is true. That's why we need to get these things. I keep telling that yes, when we read *Joshua 1:8, He will make your ways prosperous and successful*, that all, everybody runs into that because these are things which the flesh immediately latches on, "Aare! Prosperity and success." But in the New Covenant be very, very careful how you judge prosperity and success in the Kingdom of God. Be very careful how you judge any work, because no work should be judged now. There's a day when works are going to be judged. In His time the most unsuccessful man was a man called Moses

but, they sing the song of Moses in Heaven. In His time, the most unsuccessful man was Jesus, they sing the song of the Lamb in Heaven. Be very, very careful how you judge success. After a preaching for a hundred and twenty years, Noah could only convince seven people to get into the ark, what a ministry! After walking with God for three hundred years, Enoch couldn't even convince his wife to go with him but the Bible says, "God was pleased with him and He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Do you know *Hebrews 11:6* is actually talking about Enoch? So, be very, very careful we don't bring the worldly sight principles and apply it to the Word of God. It will not work. So, be very, very careful. So, the Bible says, out God is a God of faith. *Romans 3:27* says,

Romans 3:27

²⁷Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

So, when we are talking about faith, faith also is not random. If God is the God of faith, then God has a law of faith. So, what is the law of faith? That's why through hearing we need to understand, how does faith work? And Jesus is the prime example of God who came in the flesh and walk by faith. We were sharing, I think last week, we were talking about Jesus walking in the flesh, human form. You wouldn't see anything that He faced that He couldn't handle by faith. Whether it was sickness, death, demon possession, storms, seas, lack, everything was handled by faith including paying taxes. Everything was handled by faith. So, He came to show us a way to live. He came to show us a way to live because what are the things that we will face in life. We will not face what Jesus faced but we will face many similar things and God says, "Faith is victory." So, when we are hearing the Word of God, don't be what I say, a very good Old Covenant believer. The whole purpose is that faith arises. So, how does faith come because faith has to come? Faith comes primarily by hearing, hearing what? The Word of God. Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Listen carefully. Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Look at this, Word of God, it comes by hearing the Word of God. So, we go to *1 Peter 1:23*,

1 Peter 1:23

²³Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible. So, the Word of God is incorruptible seed. God is using language which we understand. I mean if you have done any bit of farming at least in a flower pot. Incorruptible seed, do you know what it means? The nature of the seed is, it cannot fail. That's what it means. It cannot be corrupted. It's incorruptible, all the other seeds are corruptible but there is only one incorruptible seed that is the Word of God. So, the Word of God in itself has an inherent power that it cannot fail. It is incorruptible. That's how we were born again and that's how faith comes. But you and I can cause it not to have effect in our lives. I can cause this incorruptible seed fail in my life, though in itself it cannot fail, I can cause it to fail in my Life because I did not follow the law of faith. That is why whenever there is an air crash what is the first thing the investigators are looking for? The black box. Why? Why did it crash? It was not supposed to crash, yes there is a law of gravity and there is a law of aerodynamics. It was flying very well it shouldn't be crashing. What law did it break for it to crash, where the law of gravity took over? What happened to this? So, they want to hear the last conversation of the pilot which is in the black box. The black box is usually made in such a way that even fire doesn't destroy it. So, they will take it to the lab, they will listen and they will realize okay, this is what happened. Because this is the nature of faith, because faith is generated by the incorruptible seed, the Word of God but it can be caused to fail in me, if I don't follow the law of faith. If you go to *Mark 4:3* listen

Mark 4:3, 14

³"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

¹⁴The sower sows the word.

So, this morning, I am the sower. What am I sowing? The Word of God. If you go to *2 Corinthians 9:10*,

2 Corinthians 9:10

¹⁰Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

It is God who gives the seed to the sower. If God doesn't give the seed, because in your class rooms and colleges God doesn't give the seed for the sower, it is corruptible seed. There is no guarantee in any of those things but the Word of

God comes with an airtight guarantee, it cannot fail because it's incorruptible seed but the sower who sows the seed, who gives Him the seed. God. Even Jesus said very clearly, "I do not speak on My own. I speak what I hear and I do what I saw my Father do." He says, "I'm teaching you a life style," He says, "even I on My own, do not speak on my own. I speak what I hear." And He says, "When the Holy Spirit comes, He too will not speak on His own, He will speak what He hears." So, He is teaching something. He says, "You know what, you have to hear what God is saying," because the seed for the sower, the sower is sowing the Word of God but if I have to sow the Word of God first, I need the Word of God. Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food. He can give seed to me, but only He can make bread for you. I cannot make bread for you. He gives us daily bread but He gives seed to the sower and bread for food. Everything is done by Him but for that you need one necessary ingredient, which is called faith. Once that seed comes let me tell you, it is incorruptible. First you have to believe the nature of this seed. It is incorruptible. Jesus will say, "It is forever settled in the Heaven." Heaven and earth will pass away. See, when you approach the Bible, you have to approach the Bible by what God has said. The nature of the Word that you are hearing because if you don't believe in the nature of that seed, the seed will not work for you. If you go to *Genesis 1:11*, God set these laws and 8:22.

Genesis 1:11

¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

So, He set a law over there. If you plant an apple seed, you get an apple tree. You plant a mango seed, you get a mango tree. If you plant the incorruptible Word of God, what you receive is an incorruptible life. Each seed will produce according to its own kind. So, you know what God did? God birthed us with His incorruptible Word so that it will produce an incorruptible life, undefeatable life. That is why faith is victory, faith is not just something that you receive by hearing, it becomes a lifestyle. It cannot be defeated by this world because the world does not have the power to defeat it because it actually receives the very life of God. If you go to *Genesis 8:22* another principle about it.

Genesis 8:22

²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

When will this cease? In *Revelation 21:1*. Till then, this will continue. So, there is a law written, there is seed time and there is a time for harvest. In between there are seasons and there are days. So, God plants every time you hear, His incorruptible Word, His seed, there are seasons. Sorrow may come in the night, don't quit on that incorruptible seed, hang in there by faith because Joy will come in the morning. There are seasons decided. Lord of people give up before the season. There are days ordained by God, there are seasons ordained by God. There's a season called winter and summer and in between there is autumn and spring. There are seasons ordained. So, God is using language which we understand even about His Word because you will be seeing little children sitting over there and you will be wondering, you see you cannot cause them to be spiritual giants, there are seasons ordained. As soon as he got the two dreams, he taught he was ready, he was not ready. There was a season he had to go through before Joseph would be ready. There would be a season, David is anointed but David is not anointed to become king right now. He has to go through a season because if you don't go through this season like king Saul, three years later you have crashed because you did not go through the law of God – there's a law of seed time and harvest in between hang in there, continue to follow the law of faith. So, if you come there to *2 Peter 1:4* it is written

2 Peter 1:4

⁴by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

By which we have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises. We will look at this later. What happens? So, that you may be partakers of the divine nature. It's His own life we partake of and what happens? We escape the corruption that is the world. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one, we are called to live in this world till we die but, He says, as you partake this life, it says Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was living the life of His Father, His Father's life, He escaped the corruption that was in the world and every hurdle He faced, He overcame it by faith and He's telling us this is the pattern, this is what the seed does, what does the seed do? If you follow the law of faith, you partake of God's nature. We do not become God but we can live divine lives on earth. A life that overcomes,

a life inspite of all the troubles, yes, stress will come from outside. That's how in every mail I write to my people around the world, I say, "Stressed but blessed." The things that are happening, it's stress yes, but still blessed. Stress is there, in this world there will be stress but that is sight and then there is faith. So, *James 5:7* look at how chronologically God puts it across using an illustration.

James 5:7

⁷Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

Therefore, be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth. What does the farmer have? He has to have patience. He plants the seed and waits for its season. He knows there are seasons. He knows if He plants on Monday, he cannot harvest on Tuesday. So, God tells us, there are principles I have set into motion. These are laws right there from the beginning and I have told you, you are born again by the incorruptible seed of God but He says, "There are seasons, know your seasons." Remember long time ago I told you about Joseph, the pharaoh's dreams. Those were not ordinary dreams, those were prophetic dreams. He saw seven cows; lean cows and He saw seven fat cows. The lean cows came and ate the fat cows but the fat cows came first and then the lean cows came. So, God is saying, there are seasons in life. Right now, you are all young, most of you are young, you are the fat cows, eat well, I'm not talking about food. Eat well, meditate upon the Word of God now because you have the capacity, you have the time, you have the energy, you have it all. Then the lean years will come. When the lean years come you will realize after the lean cows ate the fat cows, they will remain lean, they didn't become fat. So, what is it talking about. He is talking about season. So, he gave an interpretation. Pharaoh this is what it means. You are going to have good years, seven years. During those good years, store. Build store houses and store, and when the lean years come and there is no rain, there is nothing and the ground is dry, all these things, you will be able to bring out what you have store.

So, when you are young. Last night's Q and A I was telling about the day I got saved. The next few weeks, I still thank God I only had a New Testament, I did not have an Old Testament. Old Testament I read much later. I just read and read the gospels. I tell always read the first four gospels over and over again, why. That is the life of God, the life of Jesus lived in the flesh. Then after that are the epistles. These are the teachings for the new man. Then you go to the Old Testament, you will see how the Spirit of Christ lived through certain people. Then came the years, the difficult years. The difficult years will come but when the difficult years have come, if you have made good use of your season because you realize, if you read this all you will understand, when the day of evil comes, what are we called to do? Just do that, stand. The question is, what did you do during those years that when the days of evil, not if, but 'when'. It will come into everybody's life because we live in a world which is under the sway of the wicked one. When the day of evil come, will you be able to stand. You will be able to stand, if you made use of your seasons. Make use of those seasons God says. These seasons will come in life and you should make use of those seasons and the Word of God is put across as the Seed.

So, God says be patient. In *Hebrews 6:12* again He uses that. That you do not become sluggish, somebody's prayer request was there. It was basically saying, help me, I'm becoming sluggish. I'm getting tired. I'm getting weary. No! Do not become sluggish but imitate those, whom do you imitate? Who through faith and patience. Faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:12

¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

And then it doesn't stop there with the farming narrative. Go to *2 Timothy 2:6*

2 Timothy 2:6

⁶The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

The hardworking farmer. So, we are talking about the faith principle. Jacob had twelve sons, there was one son of faith. He heard the seed, planted the seed, he went patiently through the season and when exaltation came, he's the one who partakes of it first. His other brothers have to wait another fifteen years before they will partake of his goodness. Are you getting it? So, God says, there is a time but He says, you also need to know that I'm a just God. If you are a hardworking farmer in the realm of the Kingdom of God, in the realm of faith, I promise you. You will be the first to partake of the crops.

You will be the first. So, all these illustrations are there and God is trying to encourage us. So, Paul also uses the same thing. *1 Corinthians 3*. He says, "I planted," but the farmer doesn't plant and go.

1 Corinthians 3:6

⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase

You know what, I will plant this Sunday. Next Sunday if you noticed the order in which the pulpit goes, Pastor Vijay will water. If you have noticed his messages, he always waters what I have planted. If you know order, if you listened carefully, you will understand, I plant, he will water. I plant, he waters but only God can give increase. We do not have the capacity to bring forth increase. Increase is completely in God's hands but God gave. He is the God of increase. For increase what is He looking at? Is there faith. Because about the children of Israel, He says, "They also heard the Gospel like we heard but it was of no use because they did not mix it with faith. So, He says, "So then neither he who plant is anything nor he who waters." So, you can put, neither is Pastor James who plants, not Pastor Vijay who waters is anything, which is true.

1 Corinthians 3:7

⁷So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

We do not have the capacity; no man of God ever has the capacity to bring increase. Increase is in God's hands, who gives increase. But God who gives increase. And the next verse, "Now he who plants and he who waters are one and each one will receive his own rewards according to his own labor but we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field. So, you realize something that is in *Genesis 1*, it continues. These laws have been established. So, if you are hearing about faith, faith is not random, you cannot just get faith, there are laws of faith established by God, that is the law by which we live. We live by faith and we need to, each time we hear and ask; how does these things work? Because God can't be random. Jesus was not living a random life. It is a very clear life and it always begins with hearing and hearing the Word of God. So, if you come to *Mark 4:14*, "The sower sows the Word." And the next verse *verse 20*, "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the Word, accept it, bear fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, some a hundred." If you look at *verse 14* the word is very clear, the seed is the Word of God but the field is not the mind. The field is the heart.

Mark 4:14, 20

¹⁴The sower sows the word.

²⁰But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

The problem is you are all mentally well equipped. But God is not looking at your mind. God is looking at your heart. Because as our mind is not renewed. Go to *Romans 8:7* I will show you. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God.

Romans 8:7

⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

What is the law of God? It is the law of faith. By what law? The law of faith. The carnal mind is in enmity to the law of faith because faith is very scary for the carnal mind because the carnal mind is always trying to figure what, where, why, how but faith doesn't work like that. Faith is not like exact science, though it is more scientific - one day we will understand.

So, the carnal mind is in opposition to the law of God or the law of faith. So, our heart and you see the four kinds of soil there, the seed was the same and even in the good category of soil, they too came in three categories. So, there was no issue with the seed, the sower was the same, the seed was the same, what was different was the soil, in the good category, one heart produced thirty-fold, another heart produced sixty-fold, another heart produced hundred-fold. Though the seed is the incorruptible Word of God, what comes out is not the same. So, it is not your mind, it is your heart. If you go to *Romans 10*, it explains beautifully. I like *verse 8*. What does it say? The Word is near you, in your mouth, in your heart. What is that? That is the Word of faith which we preach. We are preaching the word of faith.

Romans 10:8

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

We are not talking about the word of faith movement but this is where they took their entire terminology from, but actually the word that is to be preached has to be the word of faith, which generates faith in you. The word of faith which we preach, that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart, that is the key.

Romans 10:9

⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and understand with your mind. No! In every exam children fail because they don't understand and every time they will come and tell the teacher, I don't understand but with God there is no such problem. You don't have to understand you have to believe.

You have to believe. How easy God's school is. There is no grading like this. Because honestly when we were teachers, this is the constant thing, I didn't understand. But God says, "That's not a problem here." He says, "I didn't ask you whether you understood, I asked you did you believe?" why? If you to verse 10

Romans 10:10

¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness. It is with the heart one believes and with the mouth confession. This is talking about salvation. But this is the general principle, the first principle or like Newton's first law, this is God's first law of faith. You believe in your heart and what you believe, it's first evidence is your words. Now, we will get into the nitty gritty. *Hebrews 11:6*. Without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is. Remember we heard that earlier.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

This is actually how it works. Our belief, what we believe, is what affects our thinking. We don't realize it. Our entire thinking, we will say no. As a man thinketh so is he. Which is true, but how does he think? What affects his thinking? What affects your thinking is what you believe? See, you can say as many times on a Sunday morning that is irrelevant. The question is when you come to God, do you believe He is good? I'm not saying, do you think He is good. It is irrelevant. The question is, do you really believe He is good? Because it will show as praise. That's what we sang, in any situation. Why is Paul and Silas praising in the prison after getting beaten up and stripped? Because they believe He is good. We can say as many times as we want that God is good all the time and all the time God is good. But when crisis comes, do you believe He is good? Because what you believe either about God or man will actually shape your thinking. If you believe God is good, it will change your entire thinking and then it will start affecting what you say and how you live your life out. So, then it doesn't matter if you believe He is good, even when you don't understand, you are willing to surrender. Because you know He is good. Look at *Matthew 25:24*. You remember the parable about the talents. There were three servants he called. Gave one five, another two, another one. The third fellow went and hid it. Why did he hide it? *Matthew 25:24*. Then he who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord I knew you to be a hard man."

Matthew 25:24

²⁴Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

Do you know what affected his thinking and therefore his actions? Because in his heart he believed God was a hard man. That's shaped his thinking and shaped his actions and then when the man comes, he sees him as a hard man and God says, "If that's what you think about Me, that's what I will be to you. I will be a hard man to you." what we believe about

God will affect our thinking. If you believe God is good. Then when situations come, you will be able to look by faith: okay, this is happening, this is happening, but, the God who is in control is good. He is not bad. This is the fundamental thing which you need. This is what James is telling. When you are going through trials and testings and all, be of exceedingly great joy. Why should you be exceedingly of great joy? Are trials good, are temptations good? No, because God is never tempted by evil. That is why you can rejoice, why can I rejoice when I'm been tested and going through trials and temptations? Because I know. He is not the author of it. That my God is always good and therefore, I can still rejoice. Because once I have learned to handle it by faith and patience has worked it, it will be over because God is good and He is not tempted by evil. So, the Bible says "When any man is tempted of evil, don't say you were tempted of God." The same word is translated as trials and testing too. So, fundamentally you have to look at, who is God? When you come to God, He is what you think about God. Look at *Ruth 1:16*. Two widows on the same road.

Ruth 1:16

¹⁶But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

This is what she believed, shaped her entire thinking and conversation. She believed Naomi's God was good. She's also a widow, childless, destitute widow. Now read *verse 20, 21*

Ruth 1:20-21

²⁰But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Both were widows, both were childless. The difference was, Ruth saw Naomi's God as good, Naomi saw her God as hard. It changed their thinking, it changed their conversation and changed their outcome. So, God is not able to redeem Naomi, and because Ruth clung to Naomi, He redeemed her through Ruth. This is fundamental please understand. Your thinking is shaped by what you believe. And most of the issues in marriages are caused with what you believe. If you believe, I'm talking to men and women sitting over here. If you believe, if you are a married woman sitting her, if in your heart, not what you think and say, if in your heart you believe, "My husband doesn't love me," it will shape your thinking and your actions. After that, he can stand on his head and dance for you also it is not going to change you because fundamentally at your core you believe, "My husband doesn't love me." The same thing works on the other way. The man believes, "My wife is a rebel, she never listens to me." These are statements people just randomly shoot. Poor lady must be trying everything in the home, but he shoots because at the core he believes she's a rebel and his entire thinking is shaped by that.

You need to realize; this principle works in every relationship. In the church if you believe in your heart, "Pastor doesn't like me." That's it. Then after that it doesn't matter what pastor does, because you believe in your heart and you have confessed to yourself, "Pastor doesn't like me." See, this is the law of faith. You need to realize this is the law of faith. So, changing your thinking is not going to work. You have to change your believe structure. What is that you believe? So, any man who comes to God must believe that He is. This is who He is. You see, Jonah's believes were very strong. He knew God was good, God was gracious, God was merciful. Therefore, he said, "I don't want to go to Nineveh." See, what he believed about God as true but the problem was God was showering His love on a nation he hated. We have to get this right because we don't realize so many of our issues are got to do with what we believe. If you don't change the core that is you believe in your heart. What you believe about God is what you will think about God.

So, a man was given a talent by God or whoever it is in the parable, he took and hid it. Why did he hide it? Why didn't he multiply it? Why didn't he do whatever he could have done with that life? Because he taught God is not good. So it is not what you say, "God is good! All the time." Because that is the truth. it is irrelevant whether you believe it or not it is true. But the question is it will work for you if you believe it. So that is the first law of faith. What is that you believe? Pause for a second and ask, what is that you believe? Don't look through the lens of your experience. That's what Naomi looked at but Ruth did not look through the lens of her experience. She didn't. She said, "Your God is my God." Examine your faith. Right! That is what Paul will tell finally the church in Corinth. "Examine your faith!" The first law of faith is what you believe about God. It will change everything. What you actually believe about God. Because Jesus comes and says, "All things are

possible to him who believes.” So, what you believe about God should be true. It is not what you think because your thinking is first and foremost affected by what you believe.

Second thing *Hebrews 11:2*

Hebrews 11:2

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. God is, faith is. But before faith can come, hope has to come. To make it simple we use the word desire. If you have something and you are not desiring it, you already have it.

That’s all the men who courted their current wives before they became wives, they had this desire and they went, gave the nine yards to get their hearts desire and once they got their hearts desire, they conveniently ignore them, that is the usual complain. But the problem is, the woman does not understand. I heard this from one great man of God, I don’t know whether it’s Watchman Nee or someone else. He said, “When the prodigal son came back, there was celebration. What was the celebration about? It was about somebody who was lost and found. Now, you can’t continue that celebration all your life, then you keep on getting lost. Then the celebration or the joy should change to having.” So, often women have these issues, they want to be courted but I’m already married, I got you! Now what your joy should be is that, you have me. One was courtship, one is marriage. But once you are married, “You never court!” “Now, it is the joy of having you, then it was the joy of chasing you.” Honestly, if you understand these little, little things. Imagine just think about the parable of the prodigal son, everyday there is feasting. Why are you feasting? My son was lost, he’s been found. It’s been one month he’s been found, what’s wrong with you? the problem is, if your belief structure is wrong, it will affect everything else.

So, you cannot have faith now unless you know what you are hoping for. What are you hoping for? Everybody is looking around, what are you hoping for? The simple question to ask is, there are two kind of hope we have, right? I like some of the prayer request we read. Praying for the pregnant moms and also for the ones who want to become moms. They were hoping for and faith is. Now, they are pregnant and there are still those who are hoping to get pregnant. So, the simple question to ask is, what are you hoping for? There are two kinds of hope. One is temporal, one is eternal. Into almost anything that you bring into life as a child of God, everything has two aspects. We had the illustration about marriage, right? So, there is a man and there is a woman. A husband and a wife. You have hope and therefore you have faith but that is temporal. Now, how you work this out is how it will be reflected there because there is an eternal marriage. Then common thing, we all work. There is a temporal work we do here and then there is something eternal called, they shall serve Him forever and ever. So, the one who took the temporal faithfully, in eternity God says, “Take charge of ten cities.” So, there is a temporal hope and an eternal hope. Into everything, everything there is a temporal hope and an eternal hope. So hope has two things, temporal and eternal. You can have hope and faith for the temporal, that is what happened when Jesus was walking, people came, took their temporal hope, exercised faith, took it and they vanished. Very few people among them followed Him because their eyes were opened. Their eyes were opened to see that in this temporal thing which you did, there is something eternal and we’re going to pursue. Now, that the temporal has been achieved, that’s why God calls it as signs, you have touched the temporal, but the temporal is just a sign. You know what, now I’m going to follow the eternal. Because the worst thing to happen is to be a believer and live like a pagan. That’s what Jesus says in *Matthew 6*, if you read. Therefore, do not worry saying, “What shall we eat, what shall we drink, what shall we wear.” This is common. We all have to eat, drink and wear. Everybody has to. For after all these things the gentiles seek.

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

He says, “If you are only exercising your faith because your hope is in the temporal, He says, “You are no better than a gentile, though you are My child, you are living like a pagan. What to eat, what to wear, what to drink. It is all connected

with the temporal things of life. Where to work, whom to marry. All these things are temporal.” For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. He says, “You know what, you got an eternal Father, He knows you need all these things. Therefore, what should you do? Verse 33. Seek first the eternal, the Kingdom of God is eternal. He says, “If you seek the eternal, God will start taking care of the temporal. You will start having clarity about the temporal. Lord, where should I work. Lord I want this Job. No. When you seek the eternal, He will tell you what is the work you actually need because your work here will be connected with your rewards there. Don’t do a work here which will be of no profit there because you have to learn through the process. If you look at the eternal, He says, “The temporal will start taking meaning.” And His righteousness. The problem is He didn’t say, “And righteousness.” He said, “His righteousness.” There is only one way you can receive His righteousness – it is by faith. There is a righteousness that comes of God, the righteousness that is by faith and faith alone. He says, “Seek these two things.” And you know what, the temporal will automatically start coming. It’s not that you have ignored the temporal but because you knew how to balance. I think today’s reading was the physical and the spiritual. It is not that we ignore. Actually, you become more effective in the temporal.

Let me ask this question, simple examples in the Bible. Jacob had twelve sons, right? All twelve lived in the temporal, all lived in the temporal, they worked in the temporal, one boy was connected to the eternal. Who was useful? Only that one boy. If you look at the end of the story, only one man was actually useful both in the temporal and the eternal. So, when you are seeking the eternal, you are not missing on the temporal, actually you become more effective because you are not fulfilling your purpose, you are fulfilling an eternal purpose of God in the temporal. That’s simply what God is talking about here. Unless we get what faith, means and how we work out this law of faith, you know what, we will just waste our lives. Are you saved? Of course, you are saved but are we going anywhere? And Paul will put it across powerfully in *2 Corinthians 4:18*,

2 Corinthians 4:18

¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. The simple problem is, how do you look at the things that are not seen? And how do you not look at things that are seen? Simple. You are all looking at me, you are all listening to me but even as you are looking at me and listening to me, deep inside you must be asking the question, ‘Lord, what are You telling me?’ That is the unseen. So, you are not looking at me. In that contest you are not looking at me, you are looking at the unseen. You say, “Lord, what are You telling me?” Because each one’s situation is different. Everybody’s life is different but there’s One Word which is incorruptible, One Father He already know what you need. So, God says you know what, though you are looking at the seen, don’t see it, look at the unseen, listen to what My Spirit is trying to tell you inside and it doesn’t matter then who the preacher actually is, as long as he is preaching from the Word of God. Hannah did not even sound a word. She only was moving her lips and Eli said, “Are you drunk?” She said, “No, out of the agony of my soul I was pouring out.” And he just looked and said, “Let the Lord answer whatever your request is.” And he went. That’s it. That’s all he said. She received it. She knew God has heard, and God had answered. So, she was not looking at the seen though the priest was looking at the seen and he misunderstood the woman is drunk before afternoon. He looked at the seen, she looked at the unseen and received his word by faith and went and got pregnant and got the son. So, don’t look at the seen, for the things which are seen are temporal. But the things which are not seen are eternal. Then in *1 Corinthians 15:19* comes the rider, hammer.

1 Corinthians 15:19

¹⁹If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

So, you can have in Christ in this life. You need healing, that’s hope in Christ. By His stripes we were healed. If you do all these you shall be successful and prosperous. God offers all these in the Old Covenant to them. That’s why they are willing to fight. You will have houses which you didn’t build, wells you didn’t dig, cattle and flocks and cities. So, if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. Not miserable, pitiable meaning, God is saying, “I feel sorry for you. I’m putting before you something that is forever and ever and you are going after that which is for a short period.” So, faith is connected to hope. So, faith is connected to hope. So, you have to always ask, what am I hoping for. In whatever you are doing, you should ask this question, what am I hoping for? Am I hoping for, am I hoping for something that is only

temporal or even if I'm faithful in the temporal, I'm hoping for something that is eternal, because your hope will define your faith. Hope will define your faith because you can have faith for the temporal of course you can have faith for the temporal because your hope is in the temporal. It's perfectly fine but God says, "You are the most pitiable." Because you are taking something that is eternal and then wasting it on a temporal. You have no eye on the eternal.

You know there is a revival that is taking place at Asbury, you know that, right? We are all excited about it simply because, this is what we have been praying for, "Lord sweep across US and especially among the young ones." It is happening in the university. Some of these universities, this university few young people came for a night prayer and for the past, now it's twelve days and they still haven't left the auditorium and its crowded. Now, people are coming from all over the US, all over the world people are coming because the children are just praying and worshipping God. So, we believe let this beginning of a revival. Everybody who is spiritual is excited because Lord, this is what we are looking for but you will see so many forwards in your groups and in YouTube and all, don't read them, because these are all people who will cut and paste one Paul washer message and one John Macarthur messages saying, "These revivals are all emotion, and all these," but they are quoting him out of context putting Asbury there. These are the people who will come and pour cold water on anything that God is trying to do. So, don't listen and before you forward something be very careful what you are reading because young people are emotional. I remember when I was young, when I put up my hand for ministry, I was emotional but it became a reality later. The Bible says, He is a high priest, He sympathizes with our feelings, our infirmities. He understands, so how do you expect to touch young people. They are all lost children, lost in their homes, lost in porn, lost in drugs, lost with fentanyl and the Spirit of God is moving over them. So, don't look at it, pray Lord let it continue. Now, two or three other campuses are also starting, people are coming there. We have first-hand report because one of my nephews went, flew down to see how it is, because he wanted to be touched. Because you need to realize, why are people flying down there, because people are hungry. These are not kids, who don't have anything. These are kids who have everything and are empty.

So, we need to look at the eternal. If you are only looking at the temporal, you will miss out on the eternal. There are things which God is doing in every generation which will be recorded in Heaven. In every generation there is a movement of God and you need to say, "Lord I want to be a part of that. I want to a part of Your move in my generation." That's what is written about David right? David served God's purpose in his generation and rested with his fathers. You serve your generation but if you have served God by faith in your generation, that service will not stop because you did it by faith. Do you have your Bibles with you? Go to *Hebrews 11*.

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

I'll just show you. Now, faith is a substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. Do you see that? For by it, the elders obtained a good testimony. Do you want to obtain a good testimony? Is there anybody here who wants a good testimony before God? The Bible says, "They obtained a good testimony by faith." Even the elders could obtain a only a good testimony or a good report from God by faith. By faith we understand. What do we understand? That the unseen was made by the unseen, the seen is temporal, the unseen is eternal. By faith we understand. So, faith brings understanding. Sight brings misunderstanding. By faith you understand. Go to the next one.

Hebrews 11:4

⁴By 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.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice. Did you see that? Lord I want to offer a more excellent sacrifice. God says, "By faith you can." It's not one thing, four things are mentioned there. Look over there. Through which he obtained witness that he was righteous. Whose witness? God's witness. Not man's witness. One he was righteous. Second, God testifying of his gifts. First, he offered a better sacrifice, second, he obtained a witness that he was righteous, third, God testified of His gifts. Remember, there were so many people in the treasury coming and putting money and one poor widow came and put her two mites and God gave witness to her gift. It is different from man saying, "You are a giver,"

and God saying, "He is a giver." You read these verses, you will understand the power of what faith can do. Because faith is approaching God. Faith touches the heart of God and look at the fourth thing that is written about him. Through it, through what? Through faith, because the nature of faith is, it is incorruptible, it cannot die. So, the man is dead his faith lives. Though he is dead, he still speaks. And I'm speaking here six thousand years later about Abel because though the man is dead, he still speaks because faith is of God, it is born of the incorruptible seed of God, it cannot die. So, God says, "When you live in the temporal, can you partake of the eternal?" understand how it works. This is the way it works. When did Abel do this? Six thousand years ago. How long has he been dead? Six thousand years ago. He's still speaking. Why? The act that he did was birthed by faith and faith comes from hearing, hearing from the Word of God and the Word of God is an incorruptible seed and if it germinates, it cannot die because its nature is that. It cannot die. If it is so, because everybody wants to establish something. God says, "That is My desire for you also, why don't you establish it by faith." It will be there forever and ever as your testimony for eternity. Because these very desires God has put into us, we turn it to the temporal and lose it but God says, "We can put it into the eternal and never lose it." So, when you read the gospels, when you read the Bible, I'm telling you, read it with eyes of faith and heart that believes. At the core always believe God is good. God is good. Now turn to *2 Corinthians 5:7* suddenly again. For we walk by faith and not, what written there? Not.

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷For we walk by faith, not by sight.

So, there are two ways you can walk. You can walk by faith, or, not and, or walk by sight. God says, "You cannot walk by sight." Every decision we made before we become believer, usually after we became believers also was by sight and we never pleased God. So, simple example I gave the other church I'll give you also because when we bring that, people understand. In this life, in this world, if you want to live, there is a basic need which we need whichever format you use it. Which is called money. You need what we say in Telugu, "Dabbu." Can as much as you can, that's why Dabbu (money) is put in the Dhaba (Box). (That's why money is put in the box.) What is this? It's just a piece of paper. If you read it, it is written: I promise to pay the bearer the sum of one hundred rupees, governor of the reserved bank. It is a promise. It is limited to hundred. Within hundred rupees, you can buy anything you desire, if it is available. Within this capacity of hundred rupees, anything that cost hundred rupees and which is available you can buy. That is what money is. The first thing about money, you have to ask this question. What is money? Because whenever you talk about money everybody's attention you get. So, what is money? Money is basically purchasing power, second what does it do? It does many things. First thing it does is, it brings security. Now, let us forget there is no lunch but you have hundred rupees. So, you know even if you are hungry, that hunger has been taken by the security of hundred rupees. Whatever is within hundred rupees has secured your hunger. In any area of life, what does money do? It brings first and foremost, security.

Therefore, the more money you have, the more secure you are. When Covid-19 lockdown began, billionaires never panicked, before the lockdown came, they flew into islands in their private jets and enjoyed, one and a half years vacation. They had no issues with COVID at all because they had already planned out where they would go. Why? Because they had plenty of money, therefore it brought great security. Third, it can buy every necessity or luxury within hundred rupees. Next thing, money brings you a name and fame. Please don't forget this, without money, you don't get fame and name. Money has to be attached to something. Like we were using the example. Until last week, nobody talked about women's cricket. Suddenly, women's cricket is on BBC also, why? Because an Indian player was sold for the highest amount. So, why was she known? Because money is attached to her. Some sports are very well known because it is big money. There are tens and thousands and thousands of footballers but everybody to which money is attached you know. There are some sports mothers will come early in the morning and drop their children, pick them up, do all. Some sports they detest, 'Don't go there!' because there is no money. Parents choose their careers for their children based on money. Name and fame.

See, title can be the same but does not mean fame is the same. Doctor of medicine. What medicine? Veterinary medicine. Because there is no money attached to it. You need to realize what money does. Actually, what money does, why is Lawn Tennis so famous? Because there is money. That's one of the highest paid sports. Football, everything there is money. Then among many things, the final for today, it makes your life easy and you can make others life easy, if you have a heart. Why did I use this? Because it is easy to understand illustrations. Because when it comes to money or anything please

remember giving doesn't make you a giver. Bible doesn't say, "God loves cheerful giving." It says, "God loves a cheerful giver."

He says, 'God loves a cheerful giver.' God is a giver and therefore He gives. You can give without being a giver. Understand how these things work.

So first I need to know what money is. Second, I need to know what it does and the third thing is – how do I make my money? Fourth question – how do I spend money?

Luke 15:11-13

¹¹ ***Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. He had two sons. One son was more vocal, bolder, he had lots of hopes and desires. The problem is that he had no money. Any desire you want to fulfill in the temporal you usually need money. He knew what money is, he knew the purchasing power of money, he knew where to get it. The easiest way is go to daddy.***

¹² ***And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.***

He did not know how to spend money. He knew what money was he knew that his heart's desires could be met with money, what money could actually do and third he knew how to easily get it – go and ask daddy, 'Give me my portion.' But after that he did not learn how to spend it and he wasted. Now let's put money aside and let's go to the Kingdom of God where currency is faith. What is faith? What does faith do? How do I get faith? How do I get more faith? How do I exercise or spend faith?

Think about rich people. Like Adani lost \$110 Billion but he is not panicking. He is still doing all kinds of things to stabilize the market. And his shares, after that, is not going down; it is going up. Why? You see, the rich man's worry is not our worry. Most of the things that affect us in the temporal it doesn't even bother him, why? It is because he has money. So his money is his victory. Money itself is victory for him. But there are many things money can't do for him. When it comes to eternal things money is ineffective. It can't buy salvation, it can, may be, prolong the day of death but it cannot stop it. It cannot change anything on the other side. But the Bible says that faith is victory. In the temporal money is victory. And God says, for us, we who live in this world, faith is victory.

So what is faith? *Faith is the substance of things hoped for.* So first we have to go to 'hope' and see – what are we hoping for? Its substance is faith. It has got tremendous purchasing power.

Luke 17:6

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.***

Let me ask you this question let us say, Ambani or Adani (the 2 A batteries on which India runs. One battery lost its charge). Imagine Abani went to a restaurant and he forgot his wallet. And he says, 'Oh no, I forgot my wallet.' What is the manager going to do? Call the police? He will say, 'Sir, your word is enough. Your word is enough. Even if you don't pay it is okay, Sir. It is a great honor for us that you came and ate here.' Honestly they do that. They will actually invite and request, 'Will you please come and eat here so that we can advertise that you came and ate here.' You think when Sachin flew down to Paradise from Mumbai to eat biryani, do you think they charged him? No. They advertised him. Do you now that power of faith? When the world was looking for men of money, the Kingdom of God is looking for men and women of faith.

God says, 'I look for one man, for one man, one man of faith.' The whole thing is falling apart and God is looking for one man who will stand in the gap. The man or the woman who stands is the man/woman of faith. What the world is looking for and what the Kingdom of God is looking for are different. For this is the purchasing power of faith. And Jesus is saying, 'That is what faith can do.' What does it do?

Mark 9:23

²³ ***Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."***

When people who don't have money plan a vacation, they go through every sight, they are comparing rates. But the person who has money he knows that all things are possible. He is deciding, 'Last time I went to Maldives. It is boring. This time let me go somewhere else.' He is not worried about anything because he realizes that with the amount of money he has, within that limit, all my desires, all things are possible. And God comes here (*Mark 9:23*) If you believe, within the circle of My will for you, all things are possible. Nothing is impossible. What is this word 'believes' it is faith. *Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is.* That is why God says that faith is victory. You have to read Hebrews 11 over and over again. They were all simple people.

James 2:5

⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

He cannot choose you to be rich in faith until you become poor. Poor in what? In sight. That is why the first blessing pronounced is '*Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of God.*' **God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith.** It is very difficult to become poor. For when we are all trying to become rich how do we become poor? But God has chosen those who are poor in this world to become rich in faith. The riches of faith. So then the question should be – how do I get this faith? If this is what faith is, if this is what faith can do, how do I get this faith? First and foremost faith comes from hearing. Hearing what? The Word. Who is the Word of God? Jesus.

Acts 8:5

⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

Faith comes from hearing, hearing the Word of God, but who is the Word of God? The Word of God is Christ. He preached Christ. So the simple question is – every time when you read the Bible or hear the Word of God, do you hear and receive Christ? When he preached Christ to them immediately things started happening over there.

Acts 8:6-8

⁶And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸And there was great joy in that city.

There was great joy in that city. What did he preach? Christ. What followed? These things will follow those who believe.

Acts 8:14

¹⁴Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

It is not written the same way. He preached Christ and they received the Word of God. Meaning, you cannot receive the Word of God unless you have received Christ. Just because you have heard the Word of God and written down the Word of God and memorized the Word of God it does not mean that you have received the Person of Christ that is hidden in that Word. He preached Christ. For the end result of our faith is that Christ is manifested – this is who Christ is. This is what Paul is talking about – *I no longer live but Christ lives in me.* Why? It is because he received the Word of God by faith. He preached Christ and this is the result of what happened - **Samaria had received the Word of God.** That is why the writer of Hebrew says, *looking unto Jesus.* Who is He? Jesus is the Author of our faith. And every time it is Jesus who continues that road. He is the only One who can finish it. It is a Person; the Person of Jesus Christ which is revealed through. This is why God says, you cannot walk by faith and sight. *My just shall walk by faith and not by sight.*

Matthew 6:24

²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Sight serves mammon and faith serves God. You cannot walk both ways. It is not possible, they are two different masters. That is the issue. We are trying to mix sight and faith and fall in-between. You cannot serve the two; these are two different

masters. You cannot serve God and mammon. This is what sight is – more money the more secure you become. With God the more faith the more secure you are. These are two different life-styles. This is what God is telling Joshua. He is telling this is where He stands, “Joshua, I am with you. There are wall cities, they have got all the money in the land, they’ve got armed soldiers, they’ve got everything. The world has to offer. You have Me.”

So you need to ask yourself – what is faith? What does faith do? How do I get faith? How do I get more faith?

2 Thessalonians 1:3

³We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

Only one thing matters, what is that? Faith working through love. He says, you know what, what a church! They were very poor church, afflicted church because of persecution they are all gentile believers. But he says *your faith is growing exceedingly*. So your faith can grow exceedingly; the more you meditate, the more you hear, the more you speak, the more you do according to the Law of faith your faith is growing. Your faith has to grow, please remember it is not a mental thing, yes your mind is being renewed, but more than that is your heart; your core faith in God increasing? God is like a gym trainer, the first day you go He doesn’t put a 2KG weight on you. No, little by little the trainer increases but if you are not interested, because He is a Father He will leave your first or second weight because if He puts more you will buckle under it.

If people with money are the ones who makes big deals and big investments where does their courage come from? It comes from their money. Right? So God is looking for people of faith. God has got big investment in humanity, big burdens to put on humanity, so He is looking for people of faith. So God says, would you increase your faith? There are ways to increase your faith and the primary way is by hearing and hearing and speaking and doing. Hear, speak, do, hear, speak, do and hear, speak, do and faith comes. Faith comes from hearing and when you open your mouth and speak don’t contradict what God has spoken. You can mention the fact but what you believe and you speak must be what is true. You are not denying the facts, but you are expressing faith.

Paul is lying in prison, he is in chains when he writes a letter to Philip. He is in chains, in a dungeon, he is probably getting one meal a day or once in two days, but that is not what he says. He says, ‘I am in chains but I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ He says, ‘The peace of God is guarding my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.’ He says, ‘I am able to rejoice here.’ He says, ‘My God shall supply all your needs.’ You see where is he saying all these things from? That is faith speaking. And he says, ‘The Lord is near that is why I am gentle; my gentleness is evident because the Lord is near.’ You see every statement he makes in the book of Philippians he is not denying reality. It begins with reality, he says, ‘I am in chains and I wish everything about me for you, except these chains.’ But when he makes his confessions, what he makes is true. And 2000 years later when people read the book of Philippians they are still strengthened because they realize that this is true. And therefore when he is lying in prison his faith is his victory. Caesar can’t touch him, though Caesar has chained him he has no power to touch his soul.

That is what God is talking about. What happens is we go through a reality, we see that reality, we open our mouth and express only that reality. But when we hear from God it is different. You see, you have to start with this premise in the New Covenant – are you saved? Or are you trying to get saved? Are you fighting for victory? Or are you beginning from victory? Are you trying to get blessings? Or are you already blessed? Are you fighting for healing? Or are you already healed? In the New Covenant everything is already done. And what you believe matters. That is why God is saying, you have to labour to enter into that position of rest. How do you enter into that rest? It is done! I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I have been blessed. Everything that has been blessed for this life, that is for life and godliness has already been given. It is not that He will give you. And by His stripes I was healed.

There is nothing in the future-tense which God is doing; it is already done. So that is the rest from which you enter. So your reality is not that it is not there, but your truth, by faith which you are living and expressing is that I have seen the unseen. What is the unseen? My faith I have seen. God has spoken, I have believed and that is what I speak. That is what I speak even if it doesn’t become my functional reality on earth one day, it will actually become your eternal reality. ‘Okay I was sick, I believed, I confessed but I didn’t get healed and one day I die.’ But because I believed and confessed the body

you get will be better than the other bodies because God says, 'You walked by what I said. Your body is going to be more glorious than the others because you were My testimony. You refused to deny My truth by your reality.'

There is an eternity that is coming, that is forever and ever. So this is what God is talking about, what is faith? How do I get faith? What can faith do?

Let me tell you another thing,

Jude 1:20

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

You have to build yourself up on your most holy faith, how? By praying in the Holy Spirit. This is other than hearing. Now let me put this across. I am not teaching this as doctrine but I do believe that it is true. Jesus is the first-born of the new creation. So He is our proto-type in the New Covenant. And Jesus said – *these signs shall follow those who believe. If you believe and be baptized these signs shall follow. Mark 16:17* What is the first thing? You shall cast out demons. And then you shall speak in tongues. So Jesus is our first prototype. So you will see in His ministry that He is the first one who steps out and casts out demons. Right? So do you believe that He spoke in tongues? Yes He did. But it is not mentioned because he is the only One speaking in tongues, that is why he is always looking for a solitary place to pray. That is why he could face any situation with absolute rock-solid faith because He was praying in the Spirit. How would you think that He spent the entire morning and night in praying? You can only pray for a while with understanding. How long can you pray with understanding? But do you know that you can pray in the Spirit as long as you want?

1 Corinthians 14:2

² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Mysteries to whom? Not to God, but to us. So we are all facing, including me, situations which we don't understand. We do not know what the solution is. We do not know what the end of it is. We do not know how to tackle it. God says, do you know how to handle it? He says, pray in the Spirit so that you have the faith each day to be victorious. If you want to kind of faith to be victorious in your crisis, He says, there is one way to build your faith – praying in the Spirit. Then a lot of people will disagree and say that it all ceased. No it did not cease.

1 Corinthians 14:4

⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Now I am preaching forth, prophesying in many ways the Word of God. I am edifying the Church, but if I am praying in tongues I am not edifying you; I am only edifying myself. I am only edifying myself. I am not edifying you. Edify means to build up, to strengthen a structure. Edify is from where you get edifice. Edifice means a structure.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15,18

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. So when Paul prayed in the Spirit he did not understand what he was praying but he prayed. So you need to realize that there are things of faith which your mind does not understand. So when God says something like that you receive it by faith and you exercise it by faith. 'Oh, I don't understand!' No, you don't have to understand. By faith we understand. So by faith you exercise this (praying in the Spirit) I am telling you honestly,¹⁵ ***What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.***

¹⁸ I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

That is why he could handle pressure more than them all. So God has given us ways by which we can build our most holy faith. For it is the faith of God. Let me ask you a simple question – most of you have that gift, how many of you really use that gift?

Now you being given money and you go hungry, who is going to sympathize with you? You cry, 'I'm so hungry I didn't eat for two day!' what happened? No money? 'No, I have money.' Then why didn't you go and eat? God says that faith is the victory. And God has shown us the way of how you can really build up your faith. Trials will come, testings will come, evil

days will come, all these things the enemy will bring. But in the New Covenant God has given us something. The question is – do you exercise it? Among many gifts in the Holy Spirit this (praying in tongues) is one gift for yourself. Indulge in it! When you are alone indulge in it all the time. For you do not know when the day of evil will come. But when it comes you should be prepared and standing and not fallen down.

So God has shown us, what is faith? What does faith do? He has shown us ways by which we can acquire and build our faith. Primary way is always hearing the Word of God and it brings structure by what God has said and you believe more and more in it and you understand the kindness of God, you understand the severity of God, you understand both and by faith you receive it all – God is who He says He is. And you do these and these things and these laws of God will work for you; you will be blessed when you go out, you will be blessed when you come in, you will be the head, all those laws you can experience. But if you don't obey there are another set of laws that will start working. Gravity will start pulling you down, then people will be looking for your black box to see how you happen to crash.

So these things are written over there. You don't look at one side and say, 'God is good all the time' yes it is true, even when He judges you He is still good He doesn't change. I used that example earlier, you go to a court and you've been caught as a criminal, there are evidences all against you and you have been sentenced to 6 years imprisonment. Do you say that the judge is evil? No. You are evil. The judgment was right. So even when the judge is making judgment all the victims will say, 'Good judge.' That is what Moses is saying at the end of his life – '*Ascribe greatness to our God... all His ways are righteous.*'

So God is good all the time, but don't take and run away with it, look at both side of God; God is kind and God is severe. By faith you receive them both. And then you look into faith and see how you get out of that severity and remain in His kindness. And God says there is one way, keep turning. Isn't it His kindness that causes us to repent? If you keep on turning you can always remain in His kindness. You see the prodigal's father was always kind. But that fellow had to turn before he could experience it. The father didn't change. When he asked for the money the father was kind, when he took it and left the father was kind, when he wasted it the father was still kind and when he came back the father was kind. The father is always kind, the problem was that the fellow to enjoy that kindness he had to turn.

God is good all the time. All the time God is good. So we need to understand. That is what I said – faith is a life. In life there are laws. When you walk by sight, every area of sight there are laws. Even if you want to learn a language there are laws. That is why we telugus and mallus all struggle with English because our grammar is perfect but English is confusing with 26 letters in the Alphabet and 44 sounds. How do you reconcile this? So when I was a child, in class 1, I was reading in the kitchen, 'I-S-L-A-N-D = is-land' she would be like, 'What are you saying?!?!' so there are laws in everything. So God says live by faith, we need to ask – what are the laws of faith? How does faith operate? You go through the life of Jesus Christ, you will realize, boy! This is God in flesh who walked by faith. Not because He was God in flesh, but because he became Man and showed us how to walk by faith.

Like the example I gave you two weeks back, how do you go to sleep? By faith. See, Bible talks about faith – *if a man doubts while he is eating he is condemned because whatever is not of faith is sin*. So God brings eating into faith. Drinking into faith. Dressing into faith. Working into faith. Sleeping into faith. Waking up into faith. Everything which is in sight is brought into faith. That is what I am talking about. Jesus woke up early in the morning, met with His Father, and because He is an itinerant preacher heard His schedule from His Father and He is going according to the schedule. He is very tire and the Father has told, 'Go to the other side,' where there is a demonic man. He gets into the boat, goes to the bottom of the ship and He goes to sleep. The sleep of absolute faith and rest. And there is a storm, everybody panics, but when He wakes up He wakes up in faith, the way He went to sleep.

That is why these principles are important, because if you go to sleep anxious you will wake up anxious. If you go to sleep worrying, you will wake up worrying. If you go to sleep in faith, you will wake up in faith. And then when the storm hits, nobody has to tell you what to do. While all the others are accusing and blaming, 'Don't You care?' He says, "Why are you afraid? Where is your faith?" If you go to bed afraid, you will wake up afraid. So God says, 'Bring faith into everything.' For there is only one kind of life and it doesn't mean that it is easy. It is a fight.

1 Timothy 6:12

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

First of all that is the only fight we are called to fight. And it is a very good fight. We pick up all the bad fights. And we ignore the good fight. **Fight the good fight of faith**, when you fight the good fight of faith what are you laying hold of? Eternal life is God's life. Eternal life is not about living forever and ever because even in hell people are living forever and ever. No. *But this is eternal life that you may know God and His Son Jesus Christ.* It is their life. He says, if you fight the good fight of faith what you lay hold of is His life. **to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

So with the fight of faith the first thing that is brought in is confession. For when the fight begins and it starts getting difficult our confession changes. What is the first evidence of your faith? It is your words. There was a woman with an issue of blood for 12 years, she had gone to many physicians and she became worse and she lost her money. Then she heard and said to herself. The first sign is always your words. It is your mind and your words. Faith or sight the first sign is always words. It is either in the mind or in your words.

Next year, this time your wife will have a child and Sarah laughed. And God said, "Why did you laugh?" she said, 'I didn't.' God said, "You did. I heard you laugh." See, to the Unseen the unseen is visible. Everything is naked before Him is what Bible says. So the first manifestation of our faith is always our words. Either the words you speak to yourself or the words you speak to others. When he came to his senses the first step of faith is that 'he said to himself' when you hear from God and then you see something contrary, if you speak to the contrary faith is gone. "Jesus, Lazarus whom You love is sick." He didn't go for two days. And when they asked Him He said, "This is for God's glory." You go through the whole thing you will never see any negative confession from His mouth. You go through Jesus' conversations. It is good to have a red-letter Bible, you see what He has said. And you study – this is His reality but this is what He says. This is His reality, this is what he says. 'Lazarus is dead.' He says, "Good. He is asleep. Let's go wake him up." Why is He able to say that? It is because He heard.

The first manifestation of your faith is your confession. That is why I said when you read through the Word of God there are so many things written as 'Done!' so why do you undo it with your words? What God says is done we are busy undoing it. We make these mistakes for years together and then slowly learn. Then you realize, you know what, every blessing of the Lord that I receive it leaks away from my mouth.

Hebrews 3:1

¹Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Not His confession. It is our confession. We confess Christ. Philip preached Christ. So what do we confess? We confess Christ. See I can confess myself or I can confess Christ. If I confess myself there is victory to a certain level and after that it is defeat. The end of life. But if I confess Christ, Christ cannot be defeated. How can Christ be defeated? **High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,**

Hebrews 4:14

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Like I keep saying, you believed, you confessed Jesus as your Lord and that He raised from the dead, you got baptized, and when you were being baptized (if it was us) we asked you covenant questions and in front of witnesses you confessed and you got baptized, after that when things get difficult don't change your confession. 'I don't think I am saved. I don't feel like reading the Bible.' Did you get saved by reading the Bible? No. That is what saved people do. Don't change your confession. Consistently confess – 'I was saved by the blood of Jesus. I believe He is the Son of God. I believe that He rose again...' you know what your faith starts growing. Don't change your confession about anything that God has spoke to you. For this is the first evidence of what you are hoping for. The first evidence of your faith is your confession. Hold fast your confession from salvation to rapture. It is a confession.

Hebrews 10:23

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Everything will come against you to make you waver and change your confession. What is the devil trying to do? The devil is not trying to do anything except change your confession. Once your confession has changed you are gone down. Your slide has started. That is what he is trying to do, he creates all kinds of situations. See, everybody was excited, there was healing and all miracles and they get into the boat and they are all talking, 'Wow! What miracles!' then the storm came and their confession changed. Everybody's excitement is gone and now they are blaming Him, 'Don't You care?' Out of their mouths went everything.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, (why? Not because your confession will do anything but) **for He who promised is faithful.** Don't forget the One who has promised. He has given us exceedingly precious promises. He has given us everything pertaining to life (temporal) and godliness (eternal). He has given us everything both in the temporal and the eternal. You partake of it by faith and therefore you don't change your confession because the One who promised promises that He is faithful. That is why you have to look for promises. I have this hope. Good. But do you have a promise? Today there was a prayer request 'I want to be the head and not the tail.' It is a promise in the Bible, in Deuteronomy 28 – you shall be the head and not the tail. But in the New Covenant it doesn't work the way it worked in the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant you become the spiritual influence.

Joseph was still a slave in Potiphar's house but he was the influence. He was still a prisoner but he was the influence. In the prison he was the head, in Potiphar's house he was the head, he was the spiritual head. In Egypt the Pharaoh was there but he was the head. Pharaoh is not bothered, he is having a long vacation, Joseph is running everything. Why? It is because he is the head. So before you hope for something you need to have a promise. If it is healing that you are hoping for. The substance of it is faith. What is your promise that you are holding onto? The most common thing is physical affliction, but if you meet Christians they do not know the promise of God connected with healing, then how do you expect it to come to past?

The devil will come, he will come daily. That is his job and he is very good at his job. Every day he gets 'best employee' award.

Ephesians 6:16

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

You have heard it many times. That is why Paul and Peter and all of them say you have to keep on hearing this over and over again. Your first line of defense is your shield, not your armor. Your body armor is on you and your shield is in front. That is your first line of defense. Sword is not for defense, it is for offense. Don't get into offense before you defend. In the wilderness when Jesus was tempted He did not get into offense, He did not fight the devil. He just defended Himself. People think it was the sword of the Spirit. No. It was the shield of faith. 'If You are...' Jesus Said, "This is what is written" the fiery dart is quenched. Second dart, 'If You are...' Jesus puts up the shield of faith. **The shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.** The fiery darts of the wicked one, where does he attack? *The devil comes to steal, to kill and to destroy.* He cannot kill or destroy unless he has stolen. Do you know what he has stolen? Your faith. For faith is your victor. He cannot kill or destroy unless he has stolen your faith.

So he is not out here for your health or wealth, no. If you don't walk by faith he will give you health and wealth also. He is not after these things, he is after your faith because he knows that faith itself is your victory. And if faith is your victory, who is defeated? He, the devil, is defeated. That is why Paul is telling Timothy – fight the good fight of faith and part take of the life of God. So that is your victory and he is defeated. But he comes with his fiery darts and what is the first line of defense? It is faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. You know, what is the greatest enemy of faith which the enemy uses? The biggest killer. It is ignorance. My people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge. They don't know who God is, they don't know what He has done, they don't know what He has given, they don't know that everything that is given you have to fight for, and they don't know how to fight and they don't have the promises to back them up. The land is given but you have to fight for it.

Everything you need for life and godliness is given. Every blessing you need to be successful is already given but learn how to get it. Fight!

So what does the devil do? He keeps us literate in everything, sports, movies, in everything we are super-smart. He keeps us ignorant in the ways of God. Ultimately when our life runs out into eternity, we are termed failures. Not because God wasn't there with us or for us, but because we did not believe. So he is telling a simple thing to Joshua. 'Joshua, I am giving you a life principle. If you want your life to be prosperous and successful now and forever this is the principle – meditate on My Word, don't let it depart your mouth, when you speak speak what My Word says. Not what you think and what you feel or what the devil says and what others say. All those things, not that. Be faithful to the Word.'

There are people who meditate and do but they never say. And there are people who meditate and say but they never do. Then there are people who neither meditate, nor say, nor do. But life is not a vacuum, if you are not meditating upon the Word of God you are meditating on something else. If you are not saying according to the Word of God then you are saying according to something else. If you are not doing according to the Word of God then you are doing according to something else. You cannot remain stagnant, unless you are mentally retarded, which you are not. Either way the Law of God which was established in the beginning is working. We are all sowing. If you are not sowing in the Spirit we are sowing in the flesh. 'No, I will not sow.' It doesn't work that way. Even when you are sleeping you are sowing.

That is why it says, 'O sluggard get up. You are sowing in your bed.' Even in your bed you are sowing. You cannot help but sow; this law no man can escape. You cannot escape this law. So God says that you cannot escape this law because I have set this law right in the beginning, understand the principles of how My Creation works. This is the Law of sowing and reaping, seed time and harvest; *he who sows in the Spirit shall reap eternal life*, an everlasting life. So God says, get these principles very, very clear. Biblical knowledge is not the knowledge of God. Please don't misunderstand. You may know your Bible and not know the God of the Bible. The Pharisees knew their Bible very well and Jesus told them, 'You err because you do not know Scripture nor the power of God.' It was a humiliation for them, this Nazirite Carpenter is coming and telling the seminary professors that they do not know the Bible.

Biblical knowledge is not equal to knowing God. Your experiences also are not equal to knowing God. For if you really know God your experience should be replicated. Are you getting it? He fed the 5000 the first time and second time when He fed the 4000, then the third time when they were going in the Boat He said, 'Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.' Immediately they thought, 'Oh, He is upset because we did not take bread.' He said, 'I'll give you a math lesson. When you had 5 loaves how many did I feed? 5000. When you had 7 loaves how many did I feed? 4000. Don't you still understand?' they are wondering and say, 'We do not understand.' We don't understand math.

Somebody gave me a very good math lesson. Two men and a third hungry man comes. Hungry man is very rich but they don't. He is very hungry, so he tells the two men, I am very hungry feed me something. So one man brings in 5 rotis, the other man brings 3 rotis. There are three people. All together 8 rotis. They decided to divide. So they divided each roti into 3 pieces. So they had 24 pieces. Each had 8 pieces and they all ate. Before he left he had 8 pieces of gold and he gave it to them and said, 'You share. You take 5 because you gave me 5 rotis and you take 3 because you gave me three rotis. When he left they started fighting. The man with 3 pieces said it is not fair, you should give me one more so that we both have 4 each. They started fighting and finally they reached the court. When they reached the court the judge listened to them very carefully. The judge said, 'To the one who had 3 rotis give him one piece of gold and to the one who had 5 rotis give him 7 pieces of gold.' And everyone was shocked. But the judge was just.

So Jesus asked, 'Do you understand? When you had 5 loaves I fed 5000 and when you had 7 loaves I fed 4000.' Going back to the previous story, why was the judge fair? The man who brought 5 rotis and the man who brought 3 rotis, each were divided into 3 pieces. So the first man had 15 pieces and he gave 7 pieces and the second one had 9 pieces and he gave only 1 piece. So the judge said, 'Let him take 7 and you take only 1 because you ate 7 pieces and gave only 1 piece.'

So don't ever think even in the Kingdom giving is evaluated the same way. It doesn't look the same. So Jesus is teaching math to them and said, 'You had 5 loaves so I fed 5000, when you had 7 loaves I could only feed 4000. Do you see how faith works?' If you don't understand faith you will go by the math of the world. 'Oh I have 7 and I can feed 7000, because when I had 5 I could feed 5000.' God says, "No, it doesn't work that way. The more you have the less I can do. The less

you have the more I can do through you.” So therefore you have to consciously choose every day to become poor so that He can make you rich. Otherwise the Kingdom won’t work in you. Your kingdom will work. That is the simple math in the Kingdom of God. In the Kingdom of God math does not work like the kingdom of this world. In the Kingdom of this world the more you have the more you can do, but God says, ‘The less you have the more I can do through you.’

So God was waiting for forty years to empty a man, in the desert who was full of the wisdom of the Egyptians, mighty in words and deeds, but God says, ‘I can do nothing with this man. I have to empty him.’ It took Him forty years to empty him and then when God met him he was a poor man, he said, ‘I have nothing. One sandal is Zipporah’s and other sandal is Jethro’s and I can even speak and God says, ‘You are ready. I was waiting for this day now you are ready.’ From his confession you realize that this man is poor. And God says that is the kind of people I can use. But the problem is that all our confessions are rich confessions. And we think that God will be impressed by our resume. God says, ‘I am not impressed at all. I am looking for somebody who is poor. That is what the Bible says – He has taken foolish things of this world, the world looks at you as foolish to confound the wise.

1 Samuel 17:23-26

²³ Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. He has been saying this for forty days. Even Goliath is tired repeating the same words. And the Bible says

So David heard them. David is not bored because he is hearing it for the first time. The same thing can happen to us; we keep hearing the Word over and over again and there is no response from us. Then some new believers just walked into church that day and they are hearing it for the first time. And the Bible says,

²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid. ²⁵ So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father’s house exemption from taxes in Israel.” First time David speaks is in verse 26,

²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

First time. He is in the same battle field. He is in the same situation and he is not a soldier but the others are. But when he opens his mouth he speaks according to what he believes. He does not speak according to what he sees. His faith is in his God and he believes that this man has insulted God.

So you are saying, there is Joshua for forty years and so many judges have come and gone in the book of Judges for another 450 – 500 years and then is the reign of Samuel and after that is the reign of Saul and Samuel the prophet. So almost 600 years have passed but the promises of God are forever to every generation. If you have doubts go to *Acts 2:38-39*, this is how you need to hold on to the promises of God.

Acts 2:38-39

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Over verse 38 I have no sovereignty, that is God’s sovereignty. But over verse 39 I have an initiative, therefore I pray over my children and my grandchild even though she is far away, ‘Lord, this promise is to me and to my children and the children who are far off and to the generations to come. For this is Your promise.’

You see when you read the Word of God faith should come for the generations that is come to pass. God tells Joshua, ‘Every place the sole of your foot treads I will give it to you. No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. All you have to do is stick to My principles – mediate, speak and do. Think, speak, do. This is your foundation.’ 600 hundred years later there is chaos in Israel and a giant 9 feet tall comes and challenges for forty days and there is no answer and here is a man who comes standing on the same promise – *every place the sole of your foot treads...* because this is a promise to every Israelite to every generation, because Joshua is a type.

So when God says, 'It is finished in Jesus,' you have to believe that it is finished for you too. I have not fighting for victory; I am fighting from victory. That is why God says that you are more than conquerors. And it will reflect in what we believe and what we say. So when he sees the situation what he says is different. He says, 'How dare you reproach the armies of the living God?' See when Goliath speaks everybody is hearing, one set is afraid and one set is fleeing. But David doesn't flee. What He speaks is according to what he believes and what he says and that is what he says. And then he asked, 'What will the king give to the man who defeats this enemy? I will go and fight.' Read verse 28, you have to understand the fundamental principles over there.

1 Samuel 17:28

²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

You need to realize that this is a spiritual battle because when you are ready to fight the devil, the devil will agitate somebody else to create doubt and confusion and distraction in you. Jairus the ruler comes and falls before Jesus and says, 'Lord come! My daughter is dying but if you come and lay hands upon her she will live.' His words are words of facts and faith. He accepted a medical fact but he said to Jesus, 'If You intervene she will live.' And Jesus said, 'Let's go.' And as He is going there is this woman, she also is acting on faith, but because she has an issue, she doesn't want to make it public, she comes from behind and she touches Him, virtue flows in, Jesus stops and asks, 'Who touched Me?' they all say, 'Everybody is touching You.' But nobody is experiencing anything because she is touching by faith. And then she comes forward and gives her testimony. When she gives her testimony Jesus says, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you.'

You see when a testimony is given everybody's faith is pumped up, even Jesus' faith will be pumped up because His is like the heart of Moses, remember, he wanted to bless everybody. Jesus would have said, 'Thank You Father, without Me knowing You blessed this child and honored her faith.' So everybody's faith is pumped up and then few men come and say, 'Don't trouble the Master, your daughter is dead.' Here is David who stands up there to fight and says, 'Who is this uncircumcised philistine?' immediately the brother says, 'You insolent, proud fellow, you left the few sheep and you have come here to see the spectacle. Same thing this man comes and says, 'Don't trouble the Master, your daughter is dead.' Jesus comes and says, 'Don't fear. Only believe.'

Don't fear. When you are going through crisis you hear different reports, they will factually be true, but it is not the truth. Truth is what God has said. What is the promise that you are standing on? Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid. Fear not. Only believe.' Can you stand on that word alone? 'Only believe!' Lord at the end of my life I want it to be written on my tomb stone – 'He only believed.' Jesus says, 'Only believe.' And that is what Eliab is coming and saying, and you look at David's response. Very wise response for a very young child.

1 Samuel 17:29-30

²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

³⁰ Then he turned from him toward another...

Be very aware of the viles of the devil. When you are fighting your battle of faith to lay hold of eternal life, these voices from flesh and blood very close to you will come and speak to you to distract you from your purpose. Don't get distracted. Don't pick the wrong fights. You are called to fight the good fight of faith. Don't forget that fight and start fighting with Eliab. So David said, 'Isn't there a cause?' and turned away. He doesn't engage in that conversation. He walks away. A lot of people have forgotten to walk away. They get engaged in conversations and fights and by the time their conversations and fights are over other fight is forgotten and your moment has passed. The moment has passed.

If I am right, 5 times David opens his mouth. Every time he speaks it is the words of faith. Every time somebody speaks to him these are words of doubt and unbelief. His brother says, 'You are an insolent fellow.' He doesn't listen, he turns away. He comes to the king and says, 'I will fight.' The king looks at him and says, 'You are a youth and Goliath is a fighter from his youth, he is a mighty giant.' The king is also pouring cold water. David says, 'My lord, I have a testimony. A testimony with the bear and with the lion.' You go through that portion, mark everything that David said and did. And you will realize

that this is a man of faith, thank God he didn't go to school. Otherwise he would have lost his faith. His brothers went to school and lost their faith. David stayed in the wilderness so he was full of faith. Some of the greatest men God has used in the past were school drop-outs. Their grammar was terrible. Like D. L. Moody said, 'Grammar or no grammar I preach Christ.'

Think about it. What I'm saying is, yes you go to school, you go to college and you go to work, but is it strengthening your faith? Are you taking faith into your work places? Do you believe what God has said? Do you believe? If God has told you something you need to believe. All your circumstances will look contrary. I am telling you because a lot of you are young and you haven't even started your journey. You are so young. I will tell you something that happened many years ago.

When I had to go to this country and Christianity at that time was banned, and the Church was underground. They had asked me, 'Would you please come and help out.' The only way I could go and stay there was work and I had my resume. So previous visit I had gone for one week I just gave my resume. My resume is just one page, I only mention what I wrote and what I passed, my rank and grades and nothing else. Nothing embellishing. Nothing there. That is all my resume is; class 10, class 12, under graduation, PG, Post-PG. and I just gave it to somebody. By the time I came back home the calls kept coming, 'Please come. Will you come? Will you come?' and I am saying, 'I can't come. I can't come. I can't come,' because the time hasn't come. There are some things to be fitted in before God would release me to go. And then one day that happened and I went.

The thing is that the college was on the other side in a remote place, but all the places I had to minister in were on the opposite side of the river, far away. Everybody is staying close to school, all the teachers everybody is staying there. But I don't want to stay there and I cannot tell them what exactly I have come here for.

So they were all saying, sir, sir, come and share our quarters, you won't find anything in the cities, it is impossible. Rents are high, nothing is possible, you won't get, why don't you stay here?' I said, 'No, I want to stay in the city.' They don't know that I have a promise to hold onto. He said, 'I am sending you and you have to stay here (in the city) and I will take you to all the churches and I need you to minister over here.' 1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks and time is passing by, I'm refusing to budge. I was staying with a pastor of an underground church who is a taxi driver. He had a small room above his kitchen and I am staying there. His wife would give me some food to eat and I refused to budge. He would drop me in the morning in front of my college and then he would go for his rides. Evening I would walk back or take a cab and go. And I was staying there. Every day staff-room discussion is, 'Sir will you come? You will not get.' Every word you hear is unbelief, doubt, 'Impossible! Impossible! Impossible!'

I said, 'Lord, I need three things. I need a house in the city. Two, I need gas which was impossible. (When you are asking God for something, don't ask for tit-bits. Ask for the impossible. It was impossible those days to get a gas connection). Third, I want a telephone. (We are talking about 25 years ago. It was impossible to get a telephone. There were no mobiles either).' I said, 'I need three things. I need a house, I need gas, I will only eat what I cook, I will not eat from outside. And I need a telephone.'

Three weeks later somebody mentioned in the staff-room, 'There is one teacher in the middle of the city he is looking for somebody who will stay with him.' Then like Zeba's report, 'Yes there is somebody from Saul's house but he is lame.' They said, 'But nobody can stay with him. Everybody who had stayed with him left within 2 weeks.' I said, 'That is fine. I'll meet him.' I met him and he was very happy, 'Yes sir, yes sir. Please come.' So I got a house. One room is mine, the other room is his. So I got a house right in the middle of the city. This man will make an account of everything. If you use gas for 2 minutes he would note down and even calculate. But I am least bothered about all that. And he had a telephone line too. So I was like, 'Lord, thank You.' I told him, 'Everything that I mine I will pay you. Don't worry.'

So the first month I stayed with him he was like, 'Sir, what is wrong with you? Your telephone bill is like a newspaper.' I said, 'I haven't come here to make money. I have come here for some other purpose, you don't have to know.' One month later, you won't believe, he resigned and he left. Now I had a house, I had gas and I had telephone right in the middle of the city.

So you don't more. You know that you have heard from God. It doesn't matter how contrary the situation looks, not one positive voice, not one person. Even in the church they said, 'It is impossible.' But the thing is that God said it is possible. So the question is – whose report will you believe. You have to bring faith into all these situations. Couple of years later, by the time I left, every church knew me. It is not like Hyderabad. Go to that country, I promise you, go to every village and town where there is a church they know me. They haven't seen me but they know me. When God sends you on purpose, you will leave a testimony behind which is His testimony. When God sends you, you expect Him to do all the other things as well. And when things don't happen don't budge under pressure and say, 'Okay, I will compromise.' My whole purpose would have gone. Nothing would have worked.

That is why I said, you need to know what your purpose is. What is that God wants you to do, ask this question, 'Lord, now You gave me salvation, what is Your purpose? What do You want me to do?' like I said, ask the right questions and you will get the right answers. Our problems are all because our questions are wrong. 'Lord, You are doing nothing for me.' He says, 'You never asked Me what I want to do for you.' Ask the right questions because this is a walk of faith. It is a life of faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. And the Word of God is Christ. You have to hear Christ. Read the Gospels, if you don't have, get a red-letter Bible and go through that and listen to His words. Look at situations and look at what He says. This is how your faith goes up, for we are called to imitate His life. He came in the flesh to show us the way of life. His own Spirit has birthed us. You study – in this situation what did He say? In this situation what did he say? In this situation what did He say? What did He do? What did He say? You get the principle of faith. And you start believing Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. As I go in life I am going to face different situations. All our experiences can be put into general groups and you will realize that Jesus went through it all and faith was victory for Him.

When you go through lack, study what Jesus did and said during lack. When you go through a storm, what did Jesus do in the storm. I always tell you He always addressed the unseen and not the seen first. We always address the seen first. He never. When the storm came the Bible says that He rebuked the wind. Can you see the wind? No. and He spoke to the seas. We would have rebuked the seas (our wives and husbands) and we leave the devil alone, the unseen. He never did that, He spoke gently to the sea and He rebuked the wind. You understand these principles.

I look at these words which He uses. The Bible says that He rebuked the fever. So the fever can hear. Wind can hear. I am telling you, one of the startling things when we reach eternal, into God's presence is that everything that God has created has a life of its own. It is not our kind of life, but everything has a life of its own. They have ears to hear. Otherwise how can he speak to a tree and it hear and die? What kind of ears does the tree have? He says, 'If you don't praise the rocks will praise.' How can rocks praise? But rocks can praise and God can hear them. Understand the power of your confession and your words. And you have lost so much because of our words. God says, today start changing.

That is what you heard last Sunday, the first lesson Joshua tells the next generation, 'Zip your lip. Don't say anything. First seven days don't say anything. First thing to learn is what to say and what not to say. You haven't learnt yet so the first 6 days e quiet. Seventh day the last time I will tell you when to shout.'

Remember when we started worship, 'Church, praise the Lord!' and nobody shouted, everybody Joshua's first advice and kept silent. No. you are supposed to shout, 'Hallelujah.' And because you did not shout the walls did not come down. First defeat and Joshua's confession changed. 'O God why did You bring us here? It would have been better in Egypt.' What happened to Joshua? Did you see? At the first sign of defeat what is expressed? Unbelief. The first thing that happens, he goes before God and blurts everything out, 'It was better for us to have live and died in Egypt.' God but, 'Get and remove the problem in your midst and victory will continue.' If you have lost that means either you have turned to the right or you turned to the left. Just check yourself, whether you turned to the right and became legalistic or you turned to the left and became lawless. I told you to stand on the middle road, as long as you walk this way you cannot be defeated by the devil. So if you are defeated either you have turned to the left or to the right. What did you disobey? It is as simple as that. Unless you believe that, that victory is my default setting and not defeat.

You have to change your thinking – my God is good. That is my default setting – my God is good. Always good. And victory is my default setting and not defeat. So if I am defeated I am not going to whine, I am going to find out why I was defeated. I will not accept defeat as a status co. why? For it is written that faith is my victory. So if I have lost that means that I have

stepped back from faith. Therefore I need to go back and ask God, what is it that I did not hear? Or did I hear wrong? If you don't hear properly and you only hear half you can be defeated.

'Jacob, arise. I am the God of Bethel. Go back. So you have to go back to the land of your fathers and you have identified Me at a particular place in that land. Where is that? Go back to Bethel.' But did he go back to Bethel? No. He went to Shechem and what did he lose? His daughter, and three boys who wiped their hands in blood. Do you know why? He heard but he did not hear clearly. 'Now arise and go back to Bethel.'

See God is always a God of victory. If there is defeat it means that I didn't hear properly or I didn't listen carefully. But never appropriate blame to God because He is always good and He always wants to take us in victory. Isn't that what is written by Paul? He takes us in triumph in every place and all time, in Christ. So if I am defeated that means that I stepped out of Christ. If you are defeated, Christ can never be defeated should be your fact and the truth on which you live. Christ can never be defeated. He can never be defeated. So if I am defeated that means that I have stepped out of Christ. I am defeated but Christ is not defeated. I will glorify Christ. I failed but he never did. This is how you look at faith. Don't let your physical realities determine your confession or your reality. That is not your reality. That is why you need a red-letter Bible. Go back to the red-letter Bible and listen carefully to what Jesus said in every situation. You will be shocked. Every situation where He speaks is according to what he believes and what He believes is what His Father says.

For He said, 'I have come to reveal the Father.' We are here to reveal Christ. He came to reveal the Father and we are here to reveal Christ. That is the walk of faith; at the end of our walk, if we haven't revealed Christ we have failed. It is not what we did or what we achieve. But did we reveal Christ?

Philip had enormous result in a gentile town because he preached Christ.

Shall we look to the Lord, and we shall speak what He speaks and believe what He says, but let it not be just temporal. Think less about the temporal and put your mind on the eternal. Things that we see are temporal and the things that are not seen are eternal. Otherwise the devil will bog you down with the temporal of which he has control so that ultimately you will miss your eternal. *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God.* Let's commit ourselves.

Closing prayer:

Father, this afternoon I just come to you Lord. I just want to thank You. As a church we stand here in Your presence. We not only say from our heart but we also believe and say that You are good. And You are always good, You are great. You are righteous. You are just. You never tempt us with evil. All things are possible with You. Now I pray Father teach us to believe in You more and more. Help us to believe every word that You have spoken. For God is not a man that He should lie. You never lie; You have never lied and You cannot lie. Therefore the Word that You have given us, that we carry with us all our life is full of Truth; the truth that can actually set us free. So when we meditate upon Your Word and think, us help us to think on Your Truth and believe that You will give us the power and the grace to obey. And we will see, as You promised, greater works than this you shall do.

I believe for everyone, every one to believes O Lord. I believe that You will work great and mighty things that our faith may be even more strengthened. I pray for the young and the old that they will live lives of purpose; God-given purpose. And those who have been baptized in the Spirit and speak in other tongues I pray Lord, starting today that they should be able to say, 'I speak in tongues more than anything else.' So that they may edify themselves, they may strengthen and build themselves up in their most holy faith, that they are well-prepared when that day of evil comes like You were prepared. You went to sleep in calm but You woke up in a storm and yet Your instant response was a command of faith. I pray Father that everyone here, Lord, will fortify themselves with what You have given in faith, building themselves up so that each day when they go to school, to college to their work place, their homes, wherever the battle is, the good battle of faith. When they open their mouth and they speak it will not be ignorance, it will be the knowledge of the true God. It won't be doubt but it will be belief. It will not be fear, it will be faith. It will not be worry and anxiety but strong confidence in the Lord, O Master. O Father, may grace be poured upon our lips O Lord. Touch, touch Lord, everyone. Above all Father, I pray for the little ones, for the young ones, young generation that is growing in our midst. Touch them, guard their hearts and their minds. Let nothing that is evil, that is of unbelief enter into their hearts. Let them love You with all their heart. Let their heart and mind be stayed on You Lord. Let this be a generation about whom Daniel prophesied – they who know the Lord shall do great exploits. Father I believe for the young ones Lord. Let them grow untouched and uncontaminated by the

world, a heart full of faith O Lord. And pure innocent love for their heavenly Father O Lord. Here are everywhere where they are listening O Father. O Father, thank You, I speak Your healing into every sick body. Standing on Your Word that You bore our infirmities and diseases upon Yourself and what You released is what the woman experience, Your healing virtue. And I pray that that healing virtue would flow Father. O Father, Your strength, Your healing, Your riches as Your Word says O Lord, let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Let the weak say I am strong, let the power say I am rich. Yes Lord, I pray Father, we do not change Your confession but we will stand on what You have done and we will speak what You have done Lord. Thank You, thank You, thank You Father. Bless Your people in Your name. Let the hand of God be upon them and may Your presence go with them and go before them Lord. In all their ways and our ways guard us and keep us and help us O Lord, as You have taught us to pray – lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one that we so not stumble by word or by foot but learn to walk by faith. Thank You, thank You Lord. May You receive the glory, the honor and the power. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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