

# Little Faith to Overcoming Faith

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*Father this morning, we look to You Father. Everything, I pray Father that happens in our lives and in Your house let it be about Your Son Jesus. For He has to have preeminence in all things. Not in some things or most things but as Your Word says, "In all things." And even this morning Father I pray, Spirit of God help us to give Jesus preeminence, put aside everything else O Lord and keep our eyes fixed on Him, the Author and the Finisher of our faith. Speak to us, speak through me, let there be only one voice O Lord, the voice of the Living God and let there be an impartation of faith that we may please You that Your Sons victory may be enforced in our lives and we may be declared overcomers on that day, therefore, give us hearing ears, a believing heart and a will to obey, for in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

So, we come back to the Word of God and I keep saying, the Word of God can do anything, everything if you believe. That's why God has magnified His Word above all His name. What the Word of God primarily does or should do in our life is impart faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. We were saved by grace but through faith. That faith is our part. Every time you read, you hear the Word of God, look for something: is faith being imparted. Do I trust, do I believe God more and more? Because God says over and over three times in the New Covenant, we who have been justified by faith, "The Just shall live by faith." And He says, "My just who lives by faith, if he or she draws back my soul shall not be pleased with them." We also know it is impossible to please God without faith. Which means it is possible to please God only by faith. Only by faith it is possible. And that's faith in Jesus Christ. Everything God has done from creation to redemption. Everything he has done it through His son. So, God wants us to have faith in Jesus, in His Son Jesus and this incredible promise in *Romans 10:13*

## **Romans 10:13**

***<sup>13</sup>For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."***

It says, any one, everyone whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Whoever calls upon that name. See, this is where your confidence from witnessing should come. You cannot save anybody but God can. But you should not be ashamed to speak the name of Jesus. Like I keep saying, one of the things which I do is I tell people when they argue, I tell them, don't argue, because there will be a point in your life all arguments fail. At that time remember the name of Jesus, call upon Him. Whether you are in the ICU or ventilator He can hear. There is a day every argument will cease, even at that point there is a name that will save you. Call upon that name, the name of Jesus. But the problem is *how then can they call on Him whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him, of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher* and that's what I'm doing. You cannot believe in whom you have not heard and to hear Him, you need preachers. The job of the preacher is to preach Christ. When you put your faith in Christ, you keep on putting your faith consistently in Christ, just stand back and see what Christ can do. But let's first go to *Hebrews 9:27 and 28* we shall begin from our end and then we shall go to the beginning.

## **Hebrews 9:27-28**

***<sup>27</sup>And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.***

It is appointed for men to die once. So, get your theology right. You will only die once in this life, there is no coming back and dying again and again, no, only once. Get your theology right. It is appointed unto man to die once but after this the judgment. Now, don't get scared. This is written to believers and not to unbelievers. This is talking about the judgment of believers. This is basically for rewards. So, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. First time when He came, He came to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time. To whom will He appear a second time? What are you waiting for? That's why you need to read the Scripture carefully. I'm eagerly waiting for lunch. It will appear. Don't worry. What are you eagerly waiting for? These are all not the statements of man, these are all statements of God. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time apart from sin. First time He came for sin, second time He is coming for people who have dealt with sin. The problem is, it is appointed unto everyone to die once but we don't know when it is. I want to turn to *1 Thessalonians 5*, we will quickly read. This was

presumed, theologians say, this was the first letter written to the Church, not Romans or anything. First Letter was to deal with the issue of rapture because people are getting worried. So, Paul addresses.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-4**

**<sup>1</sup>But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. Meaning, it will come unexpectedly. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**

He says, be in the light so that this day should not overtake you like a thief. Then, ***you are all sons of light and sons of the day, you are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as other do, let us watch and be sober.*** And then in verse 8 it says, how do you eagerly wait, or how do you prepare for that day? Verse 8 says,

### **1 Thessalonians 5:8**

**<sup>8</sup>But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.**

Let us who are of the day be sober putting on the breastplate of faith and love and hope. Again, you end up with faith, love and hope. So, he says, walk in faith, that day will not catch you by surprise. I was giving that example. *Luke 18:8* says this

### **Luke 18:8**

**<sup>8</sup>I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"**

So, when He suddenly appears, the only thing He looks for is faith. How many of them were eagerly waiting for me in faith? How many actually was prepared in faith. That is the only thing He looks for. That's why faith is not static, it's something living. It's a lifestyle. So, God is saying, when He comes the only thing He looks for is faith. As an example, I told the Nepali church that last week there was a terrible accident in Greece. A train accident over fifty people died. Two trains collided and over fifty died and quite a lot of those who died were young people, students and the interesting part was that, they were coming from the city Thessalonica. Remember Thessalonica is in Greece and they were coming from Thessalonica and when this accident took place. Now you look in that train, imagine you are in a train, any train going anywhere, there are all kinds of passengers of every age group from the old to the young to in-between and babies everybody in that train. And the train is moving everybody is excited, nobody is thinking about death but when the accident takes place, it does not discriminate between age, this is too old let this die, this is too young you survive. It doesn't say.

See, if you read Scripture very carefully, there is one thing Jesus never told the church is the coming of the Lord. It's kept a secret. So, from the first generation to the final generation, every generation of believers lived with this expectancy that He was going to come in their generation. It was only towards the end Paul and Peter and John now understand that okay He is not going to come in our generation. So, this is what we need to understand. Listen carefully. We see the signs increasing and ours could be the last generation. If Jesus comes in our generation, your age is irrelevant. 'O I am young, I have time to prepare.' No, your age is irrelevant. You just have to be prepared. That is why it said, the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. It doesn't matter what your age is, each one who is prepared will be taken and the only you and I can be prepared, you see you can even prepare for death, you can forecast with all the medical reports in your file, you can kind of forecast when you are going to die. The day of the Lord no man knows.

So, we need to understand why faith, the Bible talks about faith is so central. Faith has two sides, one side of faith is what Jude talks about, contending for the faith that was once and for all. That is our deep held doctrine of Christ. These are doctrines that never change, they are forever the same and what has happened to the church in this twenty-first century is that we got rid of those deep held doctrines and we started playing with it and so you know what? Christianity has changed its nature and form and it is not Christianity any longer because those deep held doctrine which you cannot negotiate with because it is talking about who God is and you cannot negotiate with it. So, those doctrines never change

and every generation has to rise up and understand and fight for those doctrines. That is one side of faith. The other side of faith is something that is very living. Like sight is, light we in this world, people in the world live by sight, we have our five senses and we operate on our five senses. God comes and says in *2 Corinthians 5:7*

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

***<sup>7</sup>For we walk by faith, not by sight.***

You shall not walk by sight but walk by faith and we heard faith comes from hearing. We are talking about not just the first part of faith, the second part of faith and that is what we've been trying to explain. Like if you are living by sight, the most important thing you need to live by sight in this world is money. 'Dabbu', right? A Dhaba (box) full of Dabbu (money) you will be very secure. Because you know in this material world, if you have money, it works. It actually works to a limit. In the Kingdom of God, it is not money. It is faith and you need to realize, money and faith work against each other because God makes it very clear, you cannot serve two masters. He said you can use money but you cannot serve money. Because if you serve money faith will not work for you. That's why God has so much to say about money.

So, get these things very, very clear when we are talking about faith. We are talking not only about deep held convictions but will you be able to really stand for those convictions and through faith appropriate the power of God to stand. Convictions in itself is useless if you don't have the power to stand for it and in ourselves we do not have the power. We need to understand, we do not have the power. God makes it very clear. It is not by might, it is not by strength, it is by my spirit. So that power comes from the Spirit of God. God is not asking us to do anything on our own because He knows we cannot and Jesus makes this categorical statement, "Without Me, you can do nothing." So, that's why the power comes and to appropriate the power, to receive the power, we need faith. First, we need the convictions that comes by faith, and second, we need the power, that grace, that favor (grace has so many meanings; favor, grace). You see, Daniel has deep convictions and whatever has happened hasn't changed his conviction. The fact his nation is destroyed, the fact that he's been taken as a slave, the fact that he has travelled a thousand kilometers from Jerusalem to Susa, all that hasn't changed his convictions and the fact that he's among a few who has been selected by the emperor to serve in the royal civil service, the fact that he's got into the best kings university and then he is entering into the dining hall for the first time and he sees the food on the table and his convictions haven't changed. And he has very strong convictions and convictions don't start in your head, it starts in your heart. We will come to that later. It is not in your head. It is in your heart. As long as it is in your mind, you can still negotiate with it, with arguments but once it gets into your heart, it is not negotiable. So, the Bible says, Daniel purposed in his heart. Okay, he made a decision but he needs grace. So, what God does is that, God sees he has grace with the Eunuch who is in charge of him. Now, he has the power to stand on conviction. That's what grace does. Because you may have strong convictions but if grace doesn't come in at that point, the power of God is not appropriated by faith you will realize your convictions may be true but you don't have the power to stand on it.

So, we need both sides of faith. One is the absolute strong convictions that comes from the Word of God, second, Lord give me the power, the strength because you know what, what is the power of the enemy? The Bible says, the enemy comes to steal, then only he kills and destroys. Let me ask you this question. What does he steal? Does he steal your money? No, he steals your faith. If he steals your faith, he has stolen everything. He has stolen the capacity to stand, he has stolen the capacity to please God. He has stolen your victory over sin, your victory over Satan, your victory over the world. Three things you have to win. How do you win over sin? Whatever is not of faith is sin. Therefore, whatever is of faith is not sin. It is by faith you overcome sin. How do you overcome the world? Whoever is born of God overcomes the world and what is our victory? Over faith. Be sober, be vigilant Peter will say, why? Because Satan, the Devil, the roaring lion is looking for whom to devour but he says, resist him, how? Steadfast in faith. Remember we are looking at the third part of the promise. God can turn you, God can bring life where there was no life and how do you guard and increase in that life? If you do not learn to resist, he will come and he will steal and the power he uses is the power of temptation. That's why it was a good prayer that child wrote. You know what Jesus said, pray this way, lead me not into temptation, deliver me from the power of the evil one.

So, we need to realize we need power to resist the power of the evil one. How do you get it? It's all by faith. So, we have to examine our faith. This is quarterly exam, three months are over. And *2 Corinthians 13:5* Apostle Paul says, the Holy Spirit through him.

## **2 Corinthians 13:5**

***<sup>5</sup>Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.***

Examine yourself as to whether you are in the faith, test yourself, do you not know yourself that Christ is in you, unless indeed you are disqualified. He says, there's only one answer. Examine yourself, if you are in the faith, the answer is Christ is in you because what faith does is, it transfers the life of Christ into you. Paul will say, yesterday in the Q and A we were saying you take Paul's thirteen letters plus Hebrews, you take all his letters, it is entirely centered on one verse, what is that? Which verse is that? *Galatians 2:20*, mark that in your Bible. His entire journey in life, history is centered around that one verse, *Galatians 2:20* actually in KJV not even NKJV. What is it?

## **Galatians 2:20**

***<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh (body) I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. This is the secret of his success. And this is the secret of any believer's success. I live a life, that life is not mine, I live by the faith of God. So, this morning let us examine our faith. We looked for weeks *Joshua 1:8*, right? *Joshua 1:8* is the key to the Book of Joshua.

## **Joshua 1:8**

***<sup>8</sup>This 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.***

You shall one, meditate upon my Word day and night; second, see that it does not depart from your mouth and third, see that you do it. If these three you follow, God says, your way will be prosperous. Three things. One, meditate; two, be very careful when you speak, you are speaking according to what I have spoken. That's what it means. Three, be careful to do what I have said. Now, when we think about meditation, because we are all from the east and east is famous for its meditation. It is not talking about this. *Psalms 19:14* says.

## **Psalms 19:4**

***<sup>4</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.***

Let the words of my mouth. Again, the words of my mouth. You see, there is no contradiction whether God speaks to Joshua or God speaks to David, there is no contradiction in the Word of God. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart. That's why I look at eyes, because when I look at eyes, I know their mind is here but their heart is not here. But if your heart is here, that's why God says, where your treasure is, that's where your heart is. The Psalmist is not talking about the meditation of my mind. He's talking about the meditation of my heart. What or who is in your heart? That's what God is talking about. Are you thinking about your problems or are you thinking about your Savior? Are you seeing your cup half full or half empty? How is your heart? That is the key because you can memorize the entire Scripture from *Genesis 1:1* to *Revelation 22:21* yet your heart be on something else.

So, it is not talking about a mental capacity, it is talking about your deep held convictions in your heart. What are you meditating upon because out of the heart not the mind. You know you can speak from your mind and it could be absolutely untouched by your heart. That is by memory. Everything we learnt in childhood we can quote because our minds were fresh, it was empty, we memorized but you will realize it doesn't touch our daily life at all because it is not in our heart. But the Word of God is not just committed to memory, it is committed to our heart because out of the heart arises everything that pertains to life. That's why God says, examine your faith. Now, God is not coming and telling,

“Examine your faith,” to condemn us because like I said, the only thing that will matter, whether you die or Christ comes, is faith. Therefore, it has to be examined. It has to be very, very seriously examined. *James 2:14*

### **James 2:14-17**

***<sup>14</sup> What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.***

What does it profit my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works, can faith save him? The answer is no. What is James talking about? Not this James, the great James. What is he talking about? Now, he’s talking about something. If you read the subsequent verses you will understand what he is talking about. If a brother or a sister is naked and destitute of daily food and one of you say to them, depart in peace, be warmed and filled but you do not give them the things which are needed for their body. What does it profit. Now, don’t take it and run away and start a ministry. It is not talking about that. It is giving an illustration like say Sameer is hungry and I say, “God bless you brother.” How did my God bless you help his hunger? The words were very nice but there was no corresponding answer or action to meet his need. I believe in Jesus. God says, “Yeah prove it by your works.” That is what it is talking about. Don’t misunderstand these verses and say, okay if I give to the poor. No, every religion gives to the poor and they are not saved and you can be saved without giving to the poor also. The poor man, who had nothing to give to anybody except the crumbs to the dogs, reached heaven. So, it is not talking about a ministry. It is talking about something, check the validity of your faith. Do you have an action that corresponds? Is it just words coming out of your mouth, out of your head, or has it really touched your heart. That’s what the Bible is talking about, meaning you can say the right words but actually, your heart and your hands are untouched.

We sing that song, right? Who can ascend to the mount of God? Those who have a clean hand and a pure heart. Not an intelligent mind. It is the heart and the hand. And we are not discarding the mind but the mind has to be made new according to the heart. So, God says, if you believe and do. Believe and do. See, you can live what we this controlled environment experiments are there controlled, it happens to all of us except many here, all of us who were born in Christian family, we grow up in a controlled environment. Parents are Christians or believers, we go to church, we have prayer at home, we sing songs, we are forced to read our Bible and after sometime we think we are Christians and then one day the restrictions are loosed. Now, you are in a different place where you are no longer under any obligation to follow the rules of the house and suddenly you realized you never believed and that’s what happened to many of you young people. The minute for the boys the restriction was removed, suddenly it was found their baptism was false, their confession was false because they’re unable to be found in the church. So the faith they profess was dead faith.

It was not just four young men from the tribe of Judah that was brought to Babylon, there were hundreds of them brought only four their faith was proved true when the testing came. The rest fell away because they had dead faith. So, God allows these things to happen in our lives so that we ourselves will know whether we believe or not and many of you have not been tested. Our children have not been tested. A day will come when these will be taken off and when there is no outside influence upon you, the question is will you stand. Then you know it is from my heart. That’s what James is talking about because there is a kind of faith which is dead, which is actually dead which does not have the power to save you and three times in the single chapter over and over he repeats that same answer that faith without work is dead. Faith without works is dead. What works is he talking about? The works that accompany salvation. Not that you are saved by your works but the proof of your salvation is that there are works.

On the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached, there were thousands of people over there and they were all cut to the heart, they all asked what should we do, Peter gave them the answer, repent, believe in Jesus, be baptized for the remissions of your sins and you will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit and with many words he convinced them to get away from this wicked generation. Three thousands of them received the Word and they got baptized. What happened to the rest? The next word which is written is that, then they started steadfastly coming for the Apostles doctrine, for fellowship, for breaking of bread and for prayers. You see those were actions accompanying salvation. Going to church doesn’t save you, but the saved go to church. Going to church doesn’t save you, you could hear a gospel and get saved over there but going to church doesn’t save you but the saved, if within their power, will never miss church. You need to

understand these are the proofs of salvation. They will not miss the hearing of the Word, they will not miss worship because they understand unworthy vessel that I am, He saved me through His grace and His mercy by the offering of His only Son and they are forever grateful.

So, we have to examine ourselves, is my faith dead? If so, if can be brought to life. That is what happens to the prodigal son. The prodigal son did not assume, many assumptions are there but actually he comes and tells his father, can you give me my part of the wealth. The father gave him his wealth. Till then, he also repeated the prayers at home and the songs at home, went with the father to the synagogue but the minute he got his money and he left, he went another way, why? Because everything he did in his house, he had no convictions about it all. Absolutely no convictions about it all, and what happened to him? He had to come to the dead end where he's lost everything and that is when conviction begins. Now, the boy who has come back is not the boy who left the house, the boy who has come back is a boy with deep convictions about his father's house. At some point in life we will have to release our children so that they will come back with deep convictions or they will stand in the world with deep convictions because your faith has to be proved whether you can stand one on one with God. Have you really, really believed?

So, over and over in that chapter, James will say no. faith without works is dead; the works of deep conviction. Then there are some other set of people, they have faith in their mind, it never reaches the heart. And others have their mind and also they have very strong emotions. So, you see, your mind is there, your emotions are there, you feel so convinced that you really believe.

### **James 2:19**

***<sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!***

You believe that there is one God, you do well. Wow! Your doctrine. See, eight billion people on earth, you are doctrinally correct and come to around five hundred million or six hundred million. You are one of that select group, you believe only there is one God. You are doctrinally correct and he says even the demons believe. Do you know demons are absolutely doctrinally correct? They are very orthodox in their theology. They know and they believe there is only one God, not only that, they are far ahead most people in the world. In *Mark 3:11*,

### **Mark 3:11**

***<sup>11</sup>And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God."***

They also believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They believe Jesus is the Son of God. Most people in the world don't believe Jesus is the Son of God. One point whatever billion Muslims believe Jesus is a prophet. They won't believe Jesus is the Son of God but the demons believe He's the Son of God.

### **Luke 8:31**

***<sup>31</sup>And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.***

They besought Him that He will not command them to go unto the deep. Who is that? The demons. They also believe in eternal judgment. There are a lot of hackers out there and they keep writing me mail because they listen to our messages and they get triggered. One hacker wrote to me saying that that heaven and hell is on earth. Hell is a myth, you need to realize the demons he worship and who activate him is telling, 'We believe in hell.' Lot of people in the world don't believe in hell or eternal judgment, the demons believe, they strongly believe in it. And in *Matthew 8* they begged Him. So strong believe. They begged Him that He would not command them to go to the abyss. That is their judgment and then then the third one. *Matthew 8:29*

### **Matthew 8:29**

***<sup>29</sup> And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"***

Suddenly they cried what have we to do with You Jesus Son of God, have you come to torment us before the time. What does it mean? They also know He is the one who will judge them. Do you see how correct demons are in their doctrine? Yet their hearts are not touched. So, you can have correct doctrine, absolute correct doctrine in your mind and have very strong feelings that you will fight for your doctrine but it has never touched your heart. Your mind and your emotions are involved not your heart. So, there is a faith that is real, it is a faith that is rooted in Jesus, in what God has done in Jesus. There is a very powerful verse in *Romans 10:4*

#### **Romans 10:4**

***<sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.***

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. What is everyone trying to do in the world? They are trying to become righteous. Every religion's end is to make man righteous. That is the end of every religion. Everyone is trying to be righteous or to be declared righteous. You get upset if your righteousness is touched and you get upset if your righteousness is not exalted. It's all got to do with righteousness and working all your life under the law, the law declares no one righteous. So, where the law ends Christ begins. So, what happens? Suddenly you cease working for righteousness. You believe in God's work through His Son for righteousness. That is why Jesus says, He who believes and is baptized shall be saved but he who does not believe shall be condemned even if he is the most righteous under the law. So, both the righteous and the sinner are brought under the same platform. The sinner who is despondent and sinking under the weight of his sin, has no hope, he realizes the righteousness of God through Christ is a free gift. The righteous man also realizes, I can also receive it as a free gift but the question is, will you believe? Or rather can you believe? Let me tell you, it is not easy to believe and once you believe, it is not easy to continue by faith alone because subtly the devil will come and bring you back to works. That is why *Romans 1:17* says, ***faith unto faith***. Yes, it is true that we all believe at one point of time but the question is, are we still continuing in faith? Or, did we slip unto works? Because we are called to a life of faith and faith alone and that is the battle of faith and we saw in Timothy, God tells through Timothy in *1 Timothy 6:12*

#### **1 Timothy 6:12**

***<sup>12</sup>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.***

Fight the good fight of faith, for what? To lay hold of eternal life. You have to believe. Every time you have won this fight, a little of God's life is imparted into you. What you receive in return is the very life of God. And therefore, what should you do? Don't change your confession. We saw that, don't change your confession. You have to continue in the confession. Let the mediation of my heart and the words of my mouth be acceptable in your sight. Don't change your confession because whenever you are tested and when faith is not there, all you have to do is listen to your confession. The confession changes from faith to sight. Two Sundays back we saw a man in an incredibly terrible situation in *Mark 5:35* and now we come again to faith.

#### **Mark 5:35**

***<sup>35</sup> While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"***

***<sup>36</sup> As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."***

While He was still speaking. Who was still speaking? Jesus was still speaking to Jarius, actually commending that lady who had come from behind, touched Him. And He says, "Daughter, go, your faith has healed you." Jesus always commends faith. His entire ministry, He sees faith, whether it is in a sick person or a Roman centurion, a Canaanite woman, you will never see faith being ignored. Where there is faith, faith will be immediately complemented by Jesus because Jarius has come here, he has begged Jesus, "My little daughter is dying will you come and lay hands upon her." And Jesus is on the journey when this news comes. Some came from the ruler of the Synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead, why trouble the teacher any further." As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid, only believe." This is the whole purpose of preaching. You should really desire that every day we can begin and end by only believing. That's how Jesus lived His life before us, by only believing what

the Father has said. Believing on that, meditating on that, and acting on that. Only believe, if only we could only believe. If only we could only believe. Now if it is not possible - - and this not talking about in an easy situation. This is the most difficult situation to a man whose got the report, his only child is dead. God says, "Don't be afraid." What did I tell you? What did I start the journey for? Only believe, even if you are looking at death, a natural death that is coming. You know what Jesus says in *John 14:1, 2* so comforting words He speaks. *John 14:1, 2*

### **John 14:2-3**

***<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.***

Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God and believe also in me. Let not your heart be troubled. Paul will talk about, we despaired of death itself because of persecution. He says, "Let your heart not be troubled." How can my heart not be troubled when you hear about death and wars and pestilence? It is because we believe in Jesus and believe in the Father. In My Father's house are many mansions. Last night in the Q and A when we were dealing with one of these questions we said, you have to hear the testimonies of the saints that have gone before us. Their excitement towards their last days, the excitement they imparted upon their families and the believers who gathered. They were so excited. They were talking about the visions they were seeing, angelic realms. They were longing to go because heaven is a real place. Death is not an end, it is the actual beginning. Like I said, what you believe will shape your thinking. It is not what you're thinking shaping your beliefs, what you believe will shape your thinking. What you believe of God will shape your thinking about life. If you believe this, you know what, your heart won't be troubled when death gets closer and closer because you really know, I know where I am going. So, the beginning of your faith journey to the finishing of your faith journey, what is intricately connected? It is faith. Faith in Christ. So, Peter will say this way in *1 Peter 1:6-7*

### **1 Peter 1:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,***

In this you greatly rejoice, why? Because you have been grieved by trials but I want you to rejoice why? Because the genuineness of your faith which is more precious than gold is being tested. Why do we go through trials, why do we go through these situations? Why do we face trials in our individual lives, in our homes, in our offices, all through life? What is being tested? Our faith is being tested. James will say the same thing. It is in *James 1:2*

### **James 1:2**

***<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,***

My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials why? Knowing that the testing of your faith. Your faith is being tested. We need to realize a faith that is not tested cannot be trusted. How do you know you have really believed and you are saved, how do you know? I know, how do you know? Has your faith been tested? When you are going through lives problems, are you still reacting the old way like sight or you are learning to react in a new way of faith? That is the proof of your test. The genuineness of your faith. So, God will allow these things to happen and keep on happening because you know what, every time you pass a test, you pass your quarterly, you passed your half-yearly, you passed your final, you are able to throw the textbook like that because you are confident, I passed. Now, you are ready for the next class. You know why, why you are ready for the next class? It is because you passed a test, your confidence level has gone up.

So, God is not allowing trails and testing to come into our lives to fail us but to increase us in faith. But your faith has to be tested. Therefore, we see through these instances all through the Bible. We see these over and over and over. So, we will see sometimes the same incident, it's mentioned in different gospels and different nuances or differences are brought over there by the Holy Spirit so that we will understand the importance of faith. The same incident. Remember when Jesus went into that boat He fell asleep and the storm came and the reaction of the disciples. Let us look at three verses and see the difference.



### **Luke 8:25**

***<sup>25</sup>But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"***

He said to them, where is your faith? What does He mean? You go to the shopping mall, with your full basket and then you are standing there and looking at him. He says, where is your money? You want to buy this, where is your money? You're facing a situation, God is asking, "Where is your faith?" In other words, why did you have to disturb Me, you could have done this by yourself. Sometimes we don't get answers to our prayers because God says, 'I refuse to wake up you can do it by yourself.' We did that with our children. In the beginning helped with the home work after that, you do it by yourself. Now, it's not that you don't want to do it, you are lazy. You can do it. Do it by yourself and show me your script. 'No, please, hold my hand.' How old are you? Seventeen years old, hold your hand? That is the question He is asking, where is your faith? Same incident in another Gospel.

### **Mark 4:40**

***<sup>40</sup>But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"***

He said to them, why are you so fearful, how is it that you have no faith? The same incident. You had faith for this, you had faith for that but when this incident came it is as if you have no faith at all. You are acting like a total unbeliever. Why is it that you have no faith? You see what Jesus is saying? You have no faith, you are acting as if you have no faith at all. Third one, He said to them, why are you so fearful or you of little faith. Little faith is not mustard seed faith. If you have faith as little as a mustard seed you can turn this mountain. So, they don't even have that faith. O Ye of little faith. The Bible says, increase our faith. God says, Your faith can be increased. It can be made very strong that it can handle any storm, any trial, any testing in your life. Because that is when faith becomes victory because all the trials and the testing you are going to face is in this world. There are no trials and testing in heaven. Everything is going to be proved on earth and Bible says, Faith is your victory. So, God uses a term, little faith. O ye of little faith. *Mark 9:23*

### **Mark 9:23**

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

Jesus said to him, if you can believe all things are possible to him who believes. Jarius heard a news, your daughter is dead don't trouble the master. He said don't be afraid, only believe. If you believe what they said is dead, you will get it back. If you are able to believe, within the will of God, revealed will of God, if you will only believe, you will emerge out of that situation victorious because Christ cannot be defeated. But this is the problem. What is the problem? We are so used to sight and we have to learn to walk by faith. Look at this two people in this incident. One is a woman with an issue of blood for twelve years. Another is Jarius. Look at the woman first. *Mark 5:25, 26*

### **Mark 5:25-26**

***<sup>25</sup>Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.***

Now, a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better but rather grew worse, okay? Wait a second there. What happened here? She has a disease but the problem is she has money. She has a disease and she has money. As long as she has money she went to every physician. She went to Apollo, from Apollo to Yashoda, from Yashoda to Virinchi and all these places and she became worse. Finally, her situation became worse and her money ran out and that's how people die because they don't hear about Jesus. And then the Bible says she heard about Jesus. So, before she can believe in Jesus she had to come to the end of her resources. If she still had money, she would have still gone to another doctor. You need to understand this is how it works. We are so used to sight, we don't go to God in the first instance, we go to God as the last resort. God is not our first resort. God is usually for the man who believes, he says, I believe but God is the last resort. Thank God is such a godly God, not like the gods of this world. Such a meek and humble person even when we go to Him last, He sometimes listens. You're getting the picture. Now, look at the man.

### **Mark 5:22-23**

***22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet <sup>23</sup> and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and I***

Behold one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jarius by name. So, he has two things. He has a name, reputation in the society and two he has money and position. So, did Jesus start preaching yesterday? Jesus had been preaching and the ruler of the synagogue must have said, 'One fellow carpenter has come from Nazareth preaching. Why are these crowds going to listen to His false doctrine?' And then his only daughter lies at the point of death. Suddenly doctrine changes. Can your money bring her back to life? Can your position influence life? No. So, you have to, whether you are a poor woman or a rich man, until you come to your dead end, real faith will not come. And these are the fundamental lessons God is teaching right from the beginning. Israel has to see ten mighty hands of God, they still don't really believe. So, God took them a long route, brought them to the front of the red sea and put the Pharaoh's army at the back and then He say, now move. They have nowhere to go, absolutely nowhere to turn, only then the sea opens because they have nobody left to trust but God alone. That is what it means, only believe; meaning believing only in God and that is not easy for us, none of us, it is not easy. Because the natural man resiststhat, the old man. Matthew 7:13-14 is a very pragmatic Scripture.

### **Matthew 7:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.***

Enter by that narrow gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, there are few who find it. Sammy and I were talking about pragmatism last night. My second brother had come down, so he helped drop him. So, my brother was talking to him about my mother's situation how we have to be pragmatic. So, I told Sammy, I'm the youngest, we are three brothers and among all also, I'm still the youngest. The eldest one spends most of his life in the operation theatre. So, he's pessimist because all he sees is death and people struggling for life. The second one is a business man, so he's very pragmatic but the third one believes in God. If you leave it to the pessimist and the pragmatic, the mother will die, but sometimes you need to be very pragmatic also with Scripture. This is very pragmatic. Very few will find it. Why did Jesus say it?

So, what is this stumbling block of finding life when He gave His life so that we could have life. *I have come to give you life, and life in abundance* because that life is received only by faith. So, what is the problem? The problem is with the way. The way is very difficult. Why is the way difficult? Because there is only one way. Jesus said, "I am the Way." That is the problem. If Jesus said like all the others before and after Him, I will show you the way. We would have been very happy. He said, "I am the Way." Because God has never done anything or will do anything apart from His Son and our redemption of the fallen man is entirely connected to the Cross and anyone who wants to receive the Life of God has to come to the Cross. When you come to the Cross, it is the death of yourself. That is what we don't like. What is it we always fight in homes and everywhere? Listen to me. You don't listen to me, listen to me. The problem with faith is, listening to somebody else. Faith comes from hearing, hearing from the Word of God. The old self doesn't like listening to anybody but faith will only come from listening to God. So, we are stuck. What does the old man do? Pastor Vijay when he was leading, I don't know whether you listening during worship and what the worship leader says and all. It's just music and the rhythm. He used that Scripture from *Revelation 12:11*

### **Revelation 12:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.***

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives even unto death. Everybody thinks that is martyrdom. No, its not martyrdom. If you love your life, you will lose it. If you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. So, it is not talking about martyrdom it is talking about a life of faith. What does a life of faith do? It replaces your self life with the life of God which you receive by faith. You don't love your old life at all. It is not anymore about you, it is about Christ and what Christ gives is good, pleasing and finally as you keep moving, you will realize it is perfect. I could have never improved on it but most people are not ready. People get angry with God

because they are coming with their self-life. You ask and you do not receive why? You ask amiss. Your prayer request is all connected with the old life and if you don't get, you act like the old Hindi movies which you watched in your unsaved days, right? Amitabh Bachan goes to the temple he gets angry, rings the bell angrily and goes from there, 'You didn't answer my prayers, I fasted seven days and I prayed.' God says, "You asked amiss." 'No, with faith!' Whose faith? "Was it in My will?" So, lot of people walk around angry with God because they think God exist to meet their needs. Are you angry with God this morning? Think about this. Jarius daughter never fell ill, would he come to Jesus? How many Pharisees came to Jesus and got saved? How many rulers of synagogues came to Jesus and got saved? None. Look at these three Scriptures *Matthew 5:3, Luke 4:18* and *James 2:5*

### **Matthew 5:3**

***<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

### **Luke 4:18**

***<sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor;***

### **James 2:5**

***<sup>5</sup>Listen, 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?***

Why is it in all these places, God uses the word poor? You don't want to read *James 1:9-10* you want to read *James 1:9,10*. It will put a pin in your bubble.

### **James 1:9, 10**

***<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.***

Do you know the view from heaven is completely different? He says, "You who are poor, you should be absolutely thinking yourself blessed because your condition is conducive for faith and faith is the only thing God is looking for but you who are rich, you have to come to the end of your riches before you will actually trust God. That is why Jesus said, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for the rich man to enter heaven. It is not that he cannot enter but he has to come to this end where his riches cannot meet his need then only he will believe. So, God uses this term poor, poor, poor. Blessed are the poor, the gospel is preached first to the poor, and those who are poor in this world positionally God says, you can be made rich in faith. How many wants to be rich? That why yesterday in the Q and A I said you know what, you should become rich only gradually. It is not good to be born in a rich family because your needs are automatically met and even when you say 'God is Jehovah Jireh' it doesn't make any sense to you. That's why the gospel is restricted in the lives of the rich people. So, for them Jesus means Savior, meaning only to take you to heaven, the rest my money handles. That's why Jesus said it is not possible to serve mammon and God. Therefore, God will allow situations where money cannot handle and our problem is this. By nature (by old nature) we are not naturally poor. How are we born? Born in sin, shaped in iniquity. What is that iniquity? It is pride. Our natural default setting is pride, not humility not poverty. We are rich, we are not poor. We are rich, that's our default setting. Do you remember what Jesus said about the widow in Sidon in *Luke 4:25, 26*

### **Luke 4:25-26**

***<sup>25</sup>But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; <sup>26</sup> but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.***

He said you know what, many widows were there in Israel in the days of Elijah, there was drought everywhere but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath to a widow, so there are many widows but they were all proud. You can be a widow and still be proud. Poverty is just a condition that does not necessarily make you humble but it is a better condition than the rich. So, there was a widow in Zarephath in Sidon and God sent His disciple, His Apostle, His Prophet Elijah who is in Cherith.

### **1 Kings 17:8-9**

***<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup>“Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.”***

Arise and go to a widow in Zarephath I have commanded her to feed you. How many miles, eighty-five miles, hundred kilometers this man is walking when the land is full of widows because there is only one who is genuinely poor in the spirit, who will listen to the voice of God. Hundred kilometers this man has to walk to find one who is genuinely poor. So, at the end of her resources but she will do as Elijah said. Have you come to that point where we will do what God says, so that the miracle can unfold in our lives? That's why the first blessing He pronounces in His sermon is, blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of God and blessed are the meek, they shall inherit the earth. Let me ask you, what is left? Hell. Both heaven and earth are for the poor and the meek. There is nothing left. And the world system gets into our minds and tries to shape us in the image of the world. That is why God says, do not love the world because the world has its own ideas and all the ideas is feeding into the self and the things of this world because the things, use it but don't let it feed self. That is why people keep using thing, changing, changing, when there is no need to change. Why? Because it is feeding a image. The question is, is that image from heaven or is that image from earth?

Ask these questions as we do not know when pride gets into a believer. We are not talking to unbeliever; the Bible never talks to unbelievers. It's always talking to believers. Can you imagine when pride gets into a believer what happens? This is a king called Asa who has seen the mighty hand of God in his life and then there is another trouble, he goes to the Syrians for help and God sends His prophet Hanani and said, "Why did you go to the unbeliever for help? Was not there the God of Israel?" He gets so offended, he puts Hanani in prison. He's not an unbeliever. He's a believer a type of a believer and now he falls sick.

### **2 Chronicles 16:12**

***<sup>12</sup>And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.***

Ask this question – why didn't he seek the Lord? It is because pride set in, 'I am not going to ask God. I will use all the means that I have. For if I have to ask God I have to ask Hanani. I am not going to ask him. Read the next verse,

### **2 Chronicles 16:13**

***<sup>13</sup>So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty-first year of his reign.***

Two years he lay sick in his bed and died and he refused to deal with his pride, while the God of Israel was always waiting to heal. Do you know what pride can do? The biggest killer of faith is pride. Others only come second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth. But the biggest killer of faith is pride. You read *2 Kings 1*, same thing, another king called Ahaziah, he fell from the lattice, from the second floor and he is sending his soldiers to the God of Ekron to inquire whether he will live or rise up and on the way God told Elijah, 'Go and ask him – is there no God in Israel?'

That is the question God is asking. Now you will say, what does Asa and Ahaziah got to do with me? The problem is that most of our solutions, by faith, God has given into our hands, but because pride sets in we don't get our solutions. Most of our problems are in our homes, right? Let me ask you this question, let me ask the women first, because God calls them the fairer and weaker people – how many of you, when you are in trouble, ask (even regularly) ask your husband to pray over you? Or if you are a believing child ask your father to pray over you? You won't! I'm telling you, from experience over years of ministry the last person the woman asks to pray over her is her husband. She will call every pastor, every online prayer channel but nothing happens because God says, 'Your solution is here, humble yourself and ask him.' She won't. The same thing God tells the husband too. How many of you, when you are in trouble, will ask your wives to pray? Now the problem came home and now our eyes are opened, because as long as it is Asa and Ahaziah no problem, it doesn't touch me, but when it comes home or gets personal it touches you. Now you will say that your husband doesn't believe. God says, 'That is fine. Just keep your mouth shut.' Doesn't he say that?

Now let me ask you – how many of you, wives, who don't have functionally believing husbands, just keep your mouths shut? Just don't say anything. The Bible says that even a fool is considered wise when he doesn't say anything. Just keep

your mouth shut, by faith you have to believe. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God, you have to see – it is written. My husband doesn't believe, but I am married to him, he doesn't believe, he always contradicts me, what should I do? God says, 'Shut your mouth. Without a word when he sees your reverential behavior he may/ will be saved. The question is – do you believe?

Children, same story. Learn early what it is to be subject because the problem is this – it is not written in the Bible that the devil opposes the proud. No. It says *God opposes the proud*. The devil welcomes the proud. God opposes the proud and this is how we know. If our first connection with God is connected/ tainted by pride, how do we receive an answer? Our Word-life is tainted by pride. I am talking about all this in normal situations. I'm talking to men right now, you men should be good students of the Word, men of faith as the Bible talks about. Let me ask you this question, in such kind of a normal home, whenever you wives have a spiritual problem do you ask your husband first? It is written in the Bible – ask your husband first. First indictment is on the men if you do not know your Word. But if you are blessed to have a man who knows the Word, who do you ask? Why don't you ask? What is stopping you from asking?

I am telling you the secrets of the Kingdom. Do you want to know the secrets of the Kingdom? If you don't ask your believing, faith-walking husband, even if you listen to Smith Wigglesworth, D.L. Moody and Derek Prince together you will not understand because you are breaking God's law of faith. You will not understand. God will not subvert his own order. These are Kingdom principles. You cannot subvert that order? Why? It is because the answer to every need, *Hebrews 4:16*,

#### **Hebrews 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> ***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Every answer of every need is satisfied by grace. Grace is the raw power of the Holy Spirit. Any problem. If you are ill it is grace that heals you, and if God won't heal you it is grace that will help you to stand in the midst of your sickness and continue ministering as He told Paul – *My grace is sufficient for you*. By grace you can never be defeated. It is not faith, but what faith appropriates that brings the victory. God has made a very powerful statement over and over in the Bible – *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*. This is the subtle trap of the enemy. How he traps us in our own lives, in our homes and steals. And you say, 'I fasted, I believed, I prayed, I called all these prayer-lines and I listened to messages from morning to morning.' God says, 'Right there,' He tells the men, 'Live with understanding with your wife giving them honor as weaker vessels, so that your prayers may not be hindered.'

The question is – do you want a solution? God's solution? Let me tell you, God's solution always wins; there is no failure in God's solutions.

#### **Matthew 11:6**

<sup>6</sup> ***And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.***

Guard your heart from offense. If you are offended you will not listen even if Jesus appears before you and speaks to you. Pride and offense go together, they are twins. Where there is pride there is offense. That is what Jesus says, they received the Word so eagerly but then when persecution rises because of the Word they are offended. When Jesus went to Nazareth and he preached they were offended – isn't He Mary's Son? Aren't His brothers and sisters with us? They were offended because His voice sounded very familiar. 'He is doing so many mighty miracles, this fellow who grew among us.' They were offended. And to us, His disciples, and to His disciples in *John 16, verses 1-2* "I have told you all these things before hand. You will be beaten and insulted and persecuted, so that you don't get offended. The other word for it is stumble. I am telling you in advance, when you learn to walk by faith there will be this tremendous opposition from sight, they will do everything to you, don't get offended, I have told you in advance."

Don't get offended, because if you get offended that is the end of it. Asa was offended and he died in His sick bed. While Naaman will come from Syria with leprosy and walk free. Think about these things. Be serious. And Jesus tells on the last day to His disciples, "You will all be offended because of Me." And Peter said, 'Even if everyone is offended I will not be offended.' I was telling my wife, I heard an old, old time pastor saying, there are a lot of people like Peter who has got

the foot-in-the-mouth disease. So people like Peter should be given peppermint shoes so that when their foot is in their mouth at least it tasted good. He just spoke spontaneously, 'Lord, if it is You bid me come.' Jesus said, "Come!" and then he was sinking and he cried. What happened to you? He is the original Pathan, 'Hum pehle marenge aur oske bhad soochenge' (we will first hit and then think about it).

Don't get offended. Now do you understand why very few will reach their full potential? This is not about salvation; it is about enjoying your salvation on earth, facing your trials and testing with the power of God. Very few will get it. There is no crisis known to human being which cannot be handled by grace. If you look at Jesus He is never offended. If you are offended you will not be able to hear. Your prayers will not be answered. If somebody should be offended Jesus should be offended. There is the Maker bleeding and hanging on the Cross, but when He opens His mouth you know that He is not offended at all. 'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.' What do we see? Like the umpire with one finger up He is saying, 'Father give them the benefit of doubt. They do not know what they are doing.'

*Blessed are the poor in the spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God.* If we can cross that first hurdle called pride. It is a daily battle. When you wake up in the morning, two people wake up – you and you. You have to decide who is you; the old and the new. Two people wake up. The old one actually doesn't want to wake up. O ye of little faith. Little faith will not do. I am telling you, we are living in these last days where people are not even sure about their gender pronouns. You will not survive if you look at the flood that is coming and happening all around us. You will not survive with little faith. So God wants us to increase our faith so that we will be able to withstand storms that are there and are coming.

### **Matthew 6:26-32**

<sup>26</sup> ***Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*** <sup>27</sup> ***Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*** (if that was possible. By worrying if we could grow taller we would all be 6 feet or 7 feet taller. Jesus has an incredible sense of humor, right. So He comes and hits us in the heart. You all wanted to grow taller, right? By worrying nobody has grown tall.) <sup>28</sup> ***So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;*** <sup>29</sup> ***and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*** <sup>30</sup> ***Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*** Did you see something here? What is little faith? Little faith means lack of confidence in God for meeting your temporal needs, in this context. O ye of little faith. You can trust God for eternity, you can trust God for a mansion in heaven, but you cannot trust God for daily needs. O ye of little faith. Do we trust God? <sup>31</sup> ***Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*** <sup>32</sup> ***For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.***

How can we trust God and what is the basis of making this little faith into strong faith? Look at verse 26, the first thing Jesus talks about is value. ***Are you not of more value than they?*** And it is your Father that feeds them. He is not their Father, He is their Creator. Your Father is taking care of all of them. Can anyone count how many birds are there in this world? No. And God takes care of everyone of them, every day. And He says, "I am your Father. You are of so much more value." First thing you need to understand to have solid faith in God is that – my God values me. My husband may not value me, my wife may not value me. My father may not value me, my mother may not value me. My teacher may not value me because for all the values I have I need to prove myself, I have to show some gifts then they will value me. If I am not productive they will not value me. But my God values me even when He sees that I have nothing to give. My God values me. That is how your faith goes. You grow in your faith when you understand that your Father values.

<sup>30</sup> ***Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*** So why do you worry? He says, forget the birds, just look at the grass. I'm not sure whether you have actually looked at grass. Do you know how many types of grass are there? You all grew up in the city, I didn't. I grew up in the mountains. So vacations time we all made grass houses. We cut the small grass and wove them together and made our own houses, so I know how many types of grass are there. Jesus says, 'Look at the grass. Solomon in all his splendor in not dressed like one of them. It is just thrown in the fire tomorrow.' So if this is how He takes care of grass that is there only for a few days how much more will He take care you? How do you grow in your faith? You know that God values you and second, He takes care of everything.

<sup>31</sup> ***“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*** <sup>32</sup> ***For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.*** My Father knows what I need. I was telling my brother, ‘All my life, every maid that I have got, whether it is telugu, marati, bodo, assamese they all have learnt to cook mallu food for me and each one is better than the other.’ My Father knows what I need. You have to bring faith into everything. Lord You know me, this is the way I grew up, I don’t like changing food habits. I like eating the same thing seven times a week. I don’t want variety, I want stability, because if anyone eats or drinks with doubt he is condemned, because he did not eat by faith.

Did you bring faith into your eating? That is why most Sunday afternoons I don’t come to eat. For it is written that thou shall not test the Lord thy God. Yet it is the other way, when I go on missions I go to *Mark 16:17-18 even if you take poison it will not harm you.* I was telling the church yesterday, all these 30 years when I have been on missions I have never fallen ill, I have eaten the unknown. Drank water from the railway station, to the train, to the villages where there is no water. By just standing on the promises of God that I will not fall ill. You don’t fall ill because the Bible says that if you receive with thanksgiving, by prayer and by Word it is. Why don’t you bring faith into every little thing? Your Father knows what you need.

What does worrying do? Worrying steals the strength out of faith. God says, don’t worry. You have to rise up early in the morning and fight worry, because you have to fight with proclamations and confessions. *Stand steadfast to your confession till the end.* My God said that He will take care of me. My God said... my God said... my God said... you need to have your scriptures so that every day you fight worry before it comes. It is a battle, this is the battle of faith. If you don’t worry about something today, something else will come tomorrow. Worry is constant, so you have to fight it constantly. Otherwise it will eat you up. O ye of little faith.

Why did they become of little faith? How do you know that you are of little faith? What is the symptom? You worry. You worry and you worry. You forget that God values you. You forget that God cares for you. You forget that God already knows what you need. Isn’t that one of the final questions He asked His disciples? ‘When I sent you without script or bag did you lack anything?’ They said, ‘No’.

Children! Children! You believe and you grow in your faith by believing in God’s care for you. He values us, He cares for us, that He is always good and trusting in His power. That is why the Bible says, the while of creation reveals His glory. We are not able to see His power of provision in creation and therefore we worry about our daily needs. 20 billion birds wake up in the morning, 100 billion animals wake up in the morning, 500 million insects wake up in the morning, nobody is worrying and one Person is taking care of all of them. And who is that Person? Your Father. That is how faith comes and faith is always seen, it is always heard.

### **Matthew 16:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> ***Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.*** <sup>6</sup> ***Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”*** <sup>7</sup> ***And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “It is because we have taken no bread.”*** <sup>8</sup> ***But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?”***

This is the problem with us, because we are highly educated. We are reasonable beings and our reason stands directly in contrast to what God is saying. Faith and reason don’t go together. He is not trying to tell you to be unreasonable. But the problem is whenever you are faced with the situation you are reasoning it out. Joshua standing there and looking at the walls of Jericho and wondering, ‘Okay we crossed, three days are over. God said that He gave it to us, but how do I take it?’ he is reasoning it out, ‘How do I take it? These are huge cities, there are armed men inside, the gates are closed, nobody is going in and nobody is coming out. How do I take it?’ And God is standing there, Joshua asks, ‘Are You for us or against us?’ and God says, ‘Neither. Take you sandals off for you are standing on holy ground.’

God says, ‘First thing is, take off your reasoning, because what I am going to tell you will not sound with reason. Take off your sandals and this is what you have to do. Get the people around. Let the Ark go in the front with the priest. Let them march around the walls once a day, for six days.’ Let me ask you – does it fit with reason? But faith believes in God, not

with reason. That is why once in a while I share a testimony so that your faith also may be built that this God of the Bible is true.

I still remember, many, many years ago. It was in Assam I had just made the bamboo fencing, new fencing. And that night the storm came. I've had experiences with the storms, the first storm was when I was very young, the cyclone came and the roof flew off. I still remember my mother pushing us all into the almarah and the others who couldn't fit stood there with the carom board with the rain pouring down. So these memories are there. Now, many years later it is blowing. I knew the house was concrete now, so I was more concerned about my new fencing being blown off. All the other fences were flying in the air. So somehow I managed to open the door and look out to see if my fence was gone. Then I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit say, 'Rebuke!' so I stood there with the door open with all my strength and I said, 'In the name of Jesus I rebuke this wind. You will not take my fence off.' You know what, the wind passed by and the next day when I walked around my fence was the only fence that was standing. Now let me ask you this question – does it fit with reasoning? No it doesn't fit reasoning. They are reasoning among themselves. This scientific knowledge goes contrary to the Word of God.

Read *John 6:7*, this is the feeding of the 5000. Jesus already knew what He was going to do, but to test them He said, 'Let us feed these people.'

### **John 6:7**

***<sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."***

He is from ISB, he's got a management degree from ISB. He is looking at the demand and he is looking at the supply, 'It is too much.' Then comes Andrew, he is from IIM, Indian institute of management.

***<sup>9</sup> "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"***

He says, 'There is a lad with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.' He looks at the supply. Jesus says, 'Give it to Me.' When is the last time you handed over your problem to Jesus? And left it in His hands without taking it back after you finished praying? Are you worrying? Are you reasoning? Two people, very reasonable people and everything they say make sense. There are 5000 men besides women and children. When Jesus says, 'Let us feed them,' one says, 'You know what, to feed them a mouth-full it will need 600 denarii. Six months wages.' That is the demand on us and we do not have it. Another one comes and says, 'All we have is a little boy's tiffin; 5 loaves and 2 fish.' That is the supply, they are reasoning it out.

Those are facts, but faith is not going with the facts; faith is going with what God has said. Yes the doctors' reports are true, they are facts; the diagnostic reports are there, the radiology report is there and the doctor's report is there, but at the end of the day what did God say? Did you check with God? Do we know that we serve a living God? And until He says, 'It is over,' it is not over. And if it is over it is because you quit without hearing Him? Let me ask you this question – the city has been burnt down, all your family everybody's family has been taken as prisoners, your 600 men are weary and they are picking up stones to stone you, what is the hope of victory? Tell me reasonably. Absolutely zero, which is when faith stands up against reason and says, 'In my God I can.' Shall I pursue? Will I overtake? Instantly comes a reply – "Pursue! You shall surely overtake. And you will recover all." Let me ask you – how does it fit in with reason, if you look at what you have? If you look at your resources, your capacity, your soldiers and on the way 200 fall-off. Did he give up? No, because he has already heard; faith is all pumped up. God has said, "You shall surely recover all. Now number are irrelevant, with 200 or 300 or 400 you cannot lose; you will only lose if you give up.

And we reason, and we reason, and we reason. If we don't worry, we reason. What does it say in verse 6?

### **John 6:6**

***<sup>6</sup> But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.***

Simple question – how did He know what He would do? He knew because our Father knows what we need. You see, Jesus showed us how to live '*Your Father already knows what you need.*' Did you go to the Father? No, you looked at your pockets. You looked at the demand and then you looked at your pockets. Very reasonable; demand is 5000 plus, supply is 5 loaves and 2 fish. That is reason. So Jesus asked them, 'Are you reasoning among yourselves? Don't you still



understand? *By faith we understand.* By faith we understand that the seen world was framed by the unseen. Are we able to frame our seen world by the unseen? Can we? Think, because many of you are caught in situations where you are not able to believe. And Jesus says, *"Only believe!"* what you are look at, the report says that it is dead. But the question is not what the report says, but did Jesus start the journey with you?

Did Jesus start the journey with you? When Jairus came in the beginning he fell at Jesus' feet, 'My daughter is dying, would You come and lay hands on her?' Jesus said, "Let's go." And then the report came, 'She is dead.' Immediately Jesus says, 'Don't be afraid, when these reports come, don't worry, don't reason, don't be afraid. Don't doubt. Be careful.' What does the enemy do? How does he steal faith? It is by these things. That is why the Bible says – those who are poor in this world God makes them rich in faith, because their atmosphere is like that; they have nothing to lean on. So when you say, 'Believe in God,' they believe in God. That is why you have to see in missions, when you go to poor people, it is so easy; there is no conflict in their minds. The minute you come into the cities conflict begins because reasoning has begun and there is a conflict going on because they love the world.

You see the problem with people in the city to surrender to God is simple because they know that God is good but they also know what they want. And they know that what they want doesn't fit in with that. Therefore they will not surrender. They are playing tug-of-war with God, 'God, You surrender. You surrender to my will.' Are you fighting God? See, Jacob wrestled with God for the right reasons. Most people wrestle with God for the wrong reasons. If you fight with God for the right reasons you will prevail because He also wants to give it. But if you fight with God for the wrong reason Lord have mercy, I pray you never prevail, because you will regret it all your life if you prevail. *"I gave them a king in My anger and took him away in My wrath."* it is because their will prevailed. We don't want that. That is why it is so simple to surrender knowing that He is good, He values me, He cares for me. And His will is good, pleasing and perfect. But we will not understand until our mind is renewed, because our old mind is full of reason. It is only in hind-sight (Ps. Vijay also says that) that we thank God for every door that He shut. Those days we banged on those doors saying, 'Open in Jesus' name.' they didn't open. And now we look back and say, 'Lord! Thank You Lord!' in hind-sight we thank God.

What if God had given into our desire and opened that door that would have been a different and tragic story. But ultimately we said, 'Lord, let Your will be done.' We look back and we realize, 'Lord, Your will was good.' Some of you are fighting God, you call it a fight of faith. You are using the Sword of the Spirit against the Spirit Himself. It won't work. Hand it over to Jesus.

Remember that old, old, message about that communion table? There is one thing about that bread in every Gospel, every time in the Epistles it is written. What is it written? He took the bread, He gave thanks, He broke it and then He gave it. Everybody ate and they were filled. This is the spiritual principle. Give your life to God, let Him bless it. Don't take it back, 'That's all I wanted. Don't break me.' God says, "If I don't break you, your life will satisfy neither you nor anybody. Ultimately you will be like Solomon, all you can do is look back at life and say, 'Empty! Empty! Empty!' do you know why? It is because Solomon was never broken. He was only blessed, he was never broken. David was blessed and he was broken and he became a blessing. Solomon was never broken.

As you come to the communion table this morning, as an act of faith, when you take that piece you say, 'Lord, let this be my life that is broken by Your hands. Then I know Lord that I will be a blessing and I will have a name in eternity.' Otherwise we will be forgotten in eternity. Take it seriously, this is where trust comes, this is where faith comes, you have to be able to. It doesn't matter what your age is. It doesn't matter what your age is, you should be able to trust God. It took 80 years for Moses to surrender. Can you believe it? There is nobody here who is 80 years old. 80 years old, then he surrendered and then he became a blessing. And there is a song when we reach heaven we will sing, it is called the song of Moses, do you know why? At 80 he finally surrendered and God took him, broke him and used him.

*Father this morning we have come to the table instituted by Your Son. It brings healing, it brings strength, it brings an awakening. So I pray, everyone who part takes of it will part-take of it by faith.* Let faith arise O Father, in everything that we do. I pray Father that we will learn to apply faith that the very power of God would come into our lives. Even now, bless Your people. As we partake of the emblems of the Body of Your Son and the Blood He shed upon the Cross. I pray that there will be divine partaking of His life; a life that overcomes. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Final words before I conclude.

**Mark 5:35**

***<sup>35</sup> While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"***

See their intentions were good, 'Don't trouble the Teacher.' But in English we say, 'The way to hell is paved with good intentions.' When you are on a journey of faith, there will be very good people, who will come to you, with good intentions and will tell you, 'Don't trouble the Master. There is no point. Your situation is beyond redemption, it is dead.' Lot of people with good intentions will come and give you advice. The question you need to ask is – it is of God? Is this of God? Is this what is written? Does it agree with the promises of God? Does it agree with what the Spirit of God is saying? Does it agree with the Person of Jesus Christ? Intentions may be good, but the question is – what did Jesus say? The Bible says,

**Mark 5:36**

***<sup>36</sup> As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."***

That is the first thing you need to realize, when you hear somebody's words, what comes in first? Then you will know whether it is faith or whether it is fear. Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid.'

**Mark 5:37**

***<sup>37</sup> And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.***

Strange, right? Do you know how the narrative began? There was a huge crowd and I believe all the apostles and the disciples were there. There was a huge crowd, but now He says, 'Thus far. The rest of you can go back. Only you three come with Me.' You should not allow worry, doubt, unbelief, reasoning, fear, offense to accompany you, because you will miss your miracle if you do. You will miss what God has for you, don't let them accompany you. That is where you part company. It doesn't mean that you abandoned them, it means you silenced their voices. Silence those voices that bring doubt and bring fear, that bring reasoning, because God has spoken something. The voice of reason will come, very reasonable, 'why trouble Him?' isn't it reasonable? Why trouble Him, because your daughter is dead. The voice of reason, Jesus said, 'Only believe.'

It is only when you start this journey of faith that you will realize that there is very little room for reasoning. You look through the Word, show me one thing that God has asked man to do that fits in with reason. Noah is asked to build a boat, nobody has ever seen rain. We didn't know if there was even a sea, or how far the sea was, because the Bible says the world was divided after the flood. So how many thousands of miles away is the sea? Man has not seen a flood, a rain, or a ship and that is what Noah is asked to build. Does it fit in with reason? Abraham went without knowing where he was going. Does it fit in with reason? If his father asked him, his wife asked him, 'Who told you?' 'God told me.' Which God? What does he say? Can he say, 'The God of the Hebrews?' there were no Hebrews yet, he was the first Hebrew. What does the word 'Hebrew' mean? The one who crossed the river. He is the first Hebrew. He can't even say, 'My father's god.' He just says, 'God told me.'

Everyone is moving to Egypt, because there is wilderness and drought and everything is dry and God tells Isaac to stay. Does it fit in with reason? Caravan after caravan with all their folks everyone is going to green Egypt, you are the only one who is asked to stay. And then you are asked to plant does it fit in with reason? You go through the Word of God, a man who grew up in Egypt, a man who led the armies of Egypt, a man who knows the power of the Egyptian army, God tells him, 'Take this stick and bring My people out.' Does it fit in with reason? Don't let your education fight your faith. Don't let your knowledge fight God because you will fail. Jesus said one thing – if you find your life you have actually lost it. But He says, 'If you lose your life for My sake you have actually found it.' That is only by faith. Only by faith.

So this morning we will stand up. All kinds of people will be there. When He goes to the home, there are a whole set of people weeping and mourning. But when Jesus says, 'She is just asleep,' what did they do? They scoffed at Him and

scorned at him. Do you know what God says through Peter? In the last days who are they first set of people who will come? Scoffers will come. So He put them all outside. You need to know what the voices you need to put outside are. Fear, worry, doubt, reasoning, mocking, scoffing. Everything that is contrary to the voice of God, to the Word of God, learn to shut it out every day, then you will realize the power of God's grace. You will release that His grace is sufficient. It is more than enough. Faith works.

In English we say, 'He who laughs last laughs long.' Noah laughed last. For the first 120 years everybody laughed at him, Then Noah laughed long. God sits in the Heaven and laughs. Those who are walking by faith stand on earth and laugh with Him. Learn to laugh with Him. Amen.

Shall we pray?

*Closing prayer:*

*Father this morning we come to You. We come to You Lord. I pray Father that there was an impartation of faith. Everyone is going through a storm; either they are coming out of a storm, or getting into a storm, or in the middle of a storm. But the Word of the Lord is still the same – 'Do not be afraid. Where is your faith?' O ye of little faith. This morning You have spoken to us that every storm can be handled by faith. Every test and trial that has been ordained in our lives can be handled and we can come through it victorious by faith. If the seas don't still, He says, by faith you can walk over it. I pray Father today that we will wake up each morning. We will wake up in faith, walk through that day in faith and enter into our rest in faith. It will be faith unto faith. Strength unto strength, glory unto glory. That is the only ordained life for your children. I pray, even the little ones who have heard today will believe, because you told that father, whose son had been affected by the epileptic spirit from the young age, "If you believe all things are possible to him who believes." If only we believe.*

*Father I pray, let there be an impartation of faith, let people receive Father, for faith is of God, faith is of the Word and faith is of the Spirit. Let there be an impartation O Lord that they will not go back the way they came. Those who are online listening will not rise up the way they came. They will go with their faith strengthened and increased, because You call it the most holy faith. This week, this month they will learn how to handle the storms and they will come back with their testimonies, 'Yes it works. Faith works.' Teach us to handle sickness by faith and troubles at home by faith, issues at office by faith; everything that we do by faith. And see the power of God released by faith and God receive the glory. Touch Lord, touch. Even our little ones here, let there be an impartation of faith. Thank You, thank You Father. You said in Your Word that we are blessed when we come in, we are blessed when we go out. We believe we are blessed because we came, now we also believe that we will be blessed as we go. We stand on Your Word. Every one, every home, every household. Reach out and meet them at the point of need. Let each one know Christ is sufficient. Thank You, thank You Father. Once again Father, we thank You for Your goodness, Your love and Your mercy. Thank You Father, for in Jesus' name we pray. 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.*