

THE FAITH TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Not too long ago as I read from Matthew's Gospel, the title of this message seemed to leap up in my heart, people need to hear so much about the faith teachings of Jesus, in our crusades and healing schools, the great needs of people loom large before me, I long to be able to make all their problems disappear with a wave of my hand, but I cannot, I am not the healer, Jesus is, and I know that no one can make the much needed connection with him except by faith.

As a minister I see myself merely as a channel, or if you like a point of contact through whom Jesus is working or through whom some one can touch Jesus.

I know that in our crusades and healing schools many may go back the same way they came, not because Jesus wills it so but because they have not been able to make the faith connection, by hearing and reading what Jesus said and did about faith. I believe that many will be able to make the life saving faith connection and experience God's healing power in their lives, bodies and circumstances. It is important to understand that Jesus taught by what he said and what He did, (Acts 1:1), in that way he was an example for us.

The first lesson we can learn from the faith walk of Jesus, is this.

Faith cannot co-exist with doubt.

In Matthew 8:1, a leper came to Jesus, he said

“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean”

Then Jesus put forth his hand and touched him saying ‘I am willing, be cleansed’.

This man was in no doubt about the ability of Jesus to heal, but he was unsure of the willingness of the master to do so. As long as that doubt existed, he was unable to reach up and receive the healing that was available through Jesus.

Jesus erased his doubt and through him the doubts of millions who somehow are not sure if God is willing to forgive or heal them.

Jesus is the will of God in action.

Jesus said ‘he that has seen me has seen the father’ he did nothing outside the will of God. When he healed, it was because that was the father's will, when he fed the hungry it was for the same reason, Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever, if it was the father's will to save, heal or deliver yesterday, then it is his will today, we need to believe this, God wills to save, heal and deliver me.

If you are going to experience the power of God in your life, you must fully believe that God loves you enough to want to heal or save you, one of the biggest hindrances to

people receiving God's power into their lives, whether it is to heal, save or deliver is not being sure of whether God wants to heal, save or deliver them.

Some people feel that their sins are so much or so grievous that they can't hope to experience God's mercy, I've got news for you, Jesus did not come to save righteous men or to heal people who are well.

He said,

He has come for the unrighteous and he has come for the sick. – Matt 9:35.

If you are lost in sin or ravaged by sickness, you can look up to God through Jesus and expect to receive healing for your soul and your body.

Another thing Jesus taught was that

Faith unexpressed is faith denied.

Many people say they have faith, but in looking around them we find no evidence of that, faith that is not seen or heard is dead, dormant, inactive or unproductive, it is active faith that brings a response from heaven.

In the 2nd chapter of Mark's Gospel, we read the story of the paralytic young man, who was let down through the roof to the feet of Jesus as he taught the word of God.

Mark said "when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, son, your sins are forgiven you"

Faith is of the heart, ie of the spirit, how did Jesus see their faith? By the actions that resulted from it, the man and his four friends did what they did because they believed that if they did it, healing would result.

Understand this, God is committed to faith, it honors him, every time faith is at work, God manifests himself, the challenge therefore is to learn to exercise faith, to act on what one has truly believed.

The act of faith is not a trial or error thing; it is not trying to see if, no! it is acting on a persuasion, a conviction that has come as a result of the word of God, notice that Jesus was teaching and preaching the word of God prior to the incident, I believe that the man and his friends were only responding to what they heard.

(I also believe that as you respond to what you hear or read of the power and mercy of God, His power will work mightily in you.)

Jesus required that people put their believing into action, he placed a demand on the people to believe, then to act on what they believed.

He said to somebody born blind, 'go wash in the pool of Siloam'

And he went and came back seeing, bible faith is more than believing in something or even in God's word, it is being so persuaded about what you believe that you are willing to act on it, we need to spend time meditating on God's word so much so that it becomes a part of us, and we are willing to act on it, and there is always one way or the other we can act on God's word.

Remember that faith without action is dead, alone, dormant and inactive and will not bring much benefit to you.

Here is something else Jesus taught

Faith in God brings you into the realm where all things are possible.

Jesus said faith in God, makes all that God is available to us; it creates a union so strong that God is manifest in us and through us. Look at it!

"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible" Marks 10:27.

Jesus said to him "if you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes" Marks 9:23.

Can you see it? The natural man is beset by limitations, impossibilities, but God lives in a place of limitless possibilities, the all knowing, all powerful God is unlimited, I am sure nobody finds that hard to believe, but see, Jesus said the man of faith can transcend the limitations and the impossibilities that cripple the ordinary person and live in the place where God is, how? By faith, faith in what? If I may ask? Faith in God and in the word of God.

Jesus did not say it was prayer that brought man to that place but he said it was faith; I truly believe that prayer is designed by God to be an expression of and channel of release for faith and not a source of faith.

Some times in our crusades, when ministering to people in the healing line, I have to ask them to stop praying, and receive from God, some people are praying so hard that they cannot exercise their faith, and the 'miracle' they desire just passes them by, if you are going to walk in God's power or receive from God, faith is key, if you are going to live above natural circumstances, faith in God is it.

Jesus said if you can believe, in other words, the exercise of faith is actually volitional, one can choose to believe or not to believe, so we have in the Church people who will choose to believe God's word for holy living, but will not believe God's word for healing and health for example, faith is not something God has blessed some with and deprived others of; God has shown us the source or the means whereby all can receive faith.

“So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” Rom. 10:17

From there on, it is up to us to exercise our faith, in other words, the exercise of faith is an act of the will, we choose to believe, that is why we can be saved, we decide to believe in God's offer of salvation and accept it, so we can choose to live the supernatural life, a life above and beyond limits, or we can allow ourselves to live purely on natural lines, the choice is ours, to be healed or to stay sick, to live or to die, to be saved or to be lost, what will you choose?

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