

MIXING GOD'S WORD WITH FAITH

By: Phillip Hayes

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. [Hebrews 4:1-2]

The Bible is so full of God's promises that it is not really possible to count them. Some people have tried and come up with about 3000. Others have counted over 7000. Herbert Lockyer wrote a book called "All the promises of the Bible" and claims to list 8000.

I don't know how many promises there are, but I know that all those promises are accessible in our Lord Jesus Christ! *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." [1Corinthians 1:20].*

Our opening scripture from Hebrews teaches a great lesson concerning the promises of God. The writer states the Word will not profit anyone unless it is mixed with faith! He was speaking of the Old Testament children of God during their wilderness experience, but warns the New Covenant church of falling short of God's promises.

Faith is the key! Simply put, God's promises are manifested by faith.

The Bible tells us, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* [Hebrews 11:6].

Throughout the centuries, many have preached about

the incredible faith of Jesus whereas He healed the sick, raised the dead, rebuked the winds and the seas; and did many wonderful and glorious acts of faith. But the question is not whether Jesus had faith. There is no doubt about this! But, do you have faith?!

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter eight, we find the story of Jesus and His disciples on a journey in a ship. When Jesus and His disciples embarked on the ship, Jesus said, *"Let us go unto the other side!"* Now in His mind, there was no doubt, *"they would go to the other side"*. Jesus spoke it, and He believed it would come to pass. His every undertaking was an act of positive faith! He was the Master of every situation. I believe He has imparted that same faith to us!

Jesus believed in His own Word so much that He immediately went to sleep; without a care as to winds, storms, or turbulent seas. There was no doubt in Him!

A storm began and the sea pitched the small ship from side to side. Jesus still slept in perfect peace! When the waters of the sea began to drench the disciples and to fill the ship, Jesus continued to sleep in peace! It seemed all was lost to the disciples and they became afraid. Fear gripped their hearts and they began to think they would all perish, but Jesus slept on!

He was demonstrating the realm of *perfect faith!* Real peace is found in faith. He knew without a doubt they would go to the other side! He had spoken it! He had the faith to believe what He said would come to pass! Isn't it remarkable, even though utter destruction seemingly was all about Him, He continued to sleep! Out of desperation and fear the disciples woke Jesus up! Mark recorded their words in Mark 4:38: *"Master, carest thou not that we perish?"*

Jesus immediately *"rebuked the wind and the sea and said, peace be still, and they ceased, and there was a calm"*. When the Master spoke, things happened, didn't they!

They were amazed at this display of power and said,

"What manner of man is this that even the winds and water obey him?" They were awe stricken of Him and His great power. The disciples had overlooked one very important lesson the Master was teaching them, and I am afraid we have also.

What was overlooked is a startling revelation if you can receive it. There is no doubt the Lord demonstrated a great act of faith. But what is even more remarkable was what Jesus said to them. He asked, *"Where is your faith"*.

Was Jesus saying, "Why did you wake me?" "You could have rebuked the storm and seas yourself!" In other words, "Why didn't you use your faith?" There are three accounts of this event recorded in the New Testament.

First: Matthew 8:25-27 (in part): *"Lord save us we perish. Why are you fearful, o ye of little faith?"*

Secondly: Mark 4:40 *"Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"*

Thirdly: Luke 8:2 *"Where is your faith?"*

In each instance, the writers state that Jesus rebuked them for their unbelief! Jesus was not only demonstrating faith, He was teaching them faith!

There is another account in the gospels where the disciples brought a child to Jesus that was possessed with a devil. They told Jesus they could not cast this devil out. Do you remember what Jesus' reply was? He said, *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I suffer you?"* When the disciples asked the Lord why they could not cast the devil out, He said it was because of their unbelief!

Children of God; unbelief is sin! It was because of unbelief that the children in the wilderness perished, and they were an example to us. Although Jesus had given the disciples power to cast out devils, they failed to mix the His Word with their faith. They didn't believe they could do what God said!

Could the disciples have rebuked the winds and the seas themselves? I believe they could have! You say, no. Well,

do you remember the time when Jesus came walking to them on the water? They had left the Lord behind on land to pray and they had boarded their ship and were at sea. Sometime during the night they saw Jesus walking on the water and He would have passed them by. Thinking it was a ghost they became afraid and cried out.

As Jesus approached the ship Peter said, *"Lord if it is you, let me come out to you."* Jesus said, *"Come!"*

Peter! The same man who would deny Him, the one who cursed and lied. Peter stepped out of the boat and placed his foot on the water; then as he steadied himself, he placed his other foot on the water and raised himself up and began walking on the water! Praise God! He was actually defying gravity! Peter was doing it! He mixed his faith with the Word Jesus gave him! Read it for yourself in Matthew 14:29. And if you will read further, you will find that it was only when Peter became afraid that he began to sink.

Fear! Fear, is one of the greatest enemies of the church! It breeds unbelief! As Peter began to sink, Jesus caught him and said, *"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"* Jesus is very plain that it was Peter's faith that empowered him to walk on the water!

Just as surely as Peter walked on the water is why I believe the disciples could have actually rebuked the storm and calmed the sea!

You say, well brother, Jesus was with them, that is why they could do those things. That is perfectly right, and I say without a doubt, Jesus is with us now!

Let's compare ourselves with these disciples of our Lord. It is a fact, Peter walked on the water. There were also seventy disciples of Jesus that healed the sick and cast out devils before they had received the Holy Ghost! Examine yourself in the light of those after Pentecost that raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out devils and performed many great miracles, signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. Where

is your faith today?

Doctors' offices around the world are full of sick and afflicted Christians! Visit any hospital and ask each person if they are a Christian and 90% of them will tell you they are! Medicine cabinets are full of both prescription and counter drugs; and many of God's people are addicted to them! There is a medicine seemingly for whatever ails you! I simply do not believe that God's people should be bound by drugs! What has happened to Faith in a God that heals and delivers?

What has happened to the old time Christians that placed their trust in God rather than man?! Who do you call my friend when sickness invades your body? Do you first call for the Elders of the church, or do you head for the emergency room?

Where is your faith? God has already made provision for our healing! The Word of God plainly tells us in Isaiah 53:5, "*By his stripes you are healed*". In the New Testament the Apostle Peter in 1Peter 2:24 tells us, "*By his stripes ye were healed*". One was a prophecy and the other a proclamation that it has already happened. Can't you see? You are already healed!

Jesus paid for your healing by the stripes He suffered before He was taken to the cross. They beat Him with many stripes! Every time the whip came across His body, He was taking that beating for you and I. Yes, because of His stripes, we were all healed! But, just as you must believe for your salvation, (we are saved by faith), you must believe for your healing, (we are healed by faith)! I have said many times, it is the same faith! If you can believe for your salvation, you can believe for your healing! Both salvation and healing were provided for you at the cross!

Some years ago, I was called to the hospital to pray for a young lady that had been diagnosed with a heart attack. The young girl, about the age of 16, was in the emergency room and the family had been told their tests had shown she

had the heart of an elderly person. They were in the process of sending her to a larger hospital with a special cardiac unit.

As I approached the girl's bedside I immediately felt fear! It was the spirit of fear and it dominated that room. The little girl and her family were beside themselves with fear and concern. I immediately rebuked the spirit of fear and began to speak peace and encouragement to the family and the girl.

After talking to her about the Lord, I asked her, "Do you believe God will heal you?" Her response to me was the same response I get almost every time I ask that question. She said, "I believe God can heal me." I asked her again, "Do you believe God will heal you?" She answered again, "I believe God can heal me." I said, "You don't understand the question." "I asked you "If you believed God will heal you?" "I didn't ask you if you believed God can, but if you believed God will heal you?"

Look, it takes no faith whatsoever to say, "I believe God can heal!" Your faith is exercised when you firmly believe that God will heal you! Praise the Lord. Can you see it? I told her we can say we believe God can do anything, but the question is "Do you believe God will heal you, right now?"

She said: "Oh, I see what you mean! Yes, I believe God will heal me right now!" Glory to God, that's all it took, I laid hands on her and commanded her heart to be made whole and the glory of God came down in that emergency room and Jesus Christ proved once again that He didn't need any doctors, nurses, or medicine to help Him! All He needed was someone to mix His Word with their faith!

That little teenager was healed! As I left the hospital, I told them all, she is healed, believe God!

Later that day, the girl's relatives called me and said the girl was at home and didn't have to go to the special cardiac hospital! They said after I left they asked the doctor to re-examine her, as they believed God had answered prayer. When the doctor examined her, he could not believe his eyes.

There was nothing wrong with her heart! There was no evidence of a deterioration of any kind. Her heart was in perfect condition! Why did this happen? Was this just a freak happening? It was no freak; this has happened many times, as I have witnessed the power of God manifested through faith mixed with God's promises!

What created this miracle was the girl glimpsed for a moment what our Lord was teaching His disciples long ago. "There was nothing impossible to him that believes!"

We must speak these things in faith! Do you remember the time when Jesus spoke to the fig tree and it died?
And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. and Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God. for verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass he shall have whatsoever he saith. therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them [Matthew 11:21-24].

Did Jesus mean what He said? What is the key to having what you desire? It is believing you have them before they are visible to you! Hebrews 11:1 tells us, "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*"! So faith is also evidence! When you pray in faith, you actually believe you have what you are asking for before you receive it! This is what happened to the little girl with heart trouble: I was able to reveal faith to her! It is believing God will! She believed she was healed before she was actually healed. And my friend those things that are hoped for when asked in faith become reality!

We are living in the age of restoration! One thing that must be restored is faith! Without faith it is impossible to please God! Jesus is searching for those that will take Him at

His Word and mix the promises of God found in the Bible with their faith! Remember, *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us"* [2Corinthians 1:20]. His promises are activated and manifested by faith.

Who will believe His report?! Who will believe His Word?! Are all things still possible? Has Jesus changed? Is God dead?

Another question that must be asked is: if we believe that Jesus has not changed; what is the requirement for man to activate this positive faith? Is there hope for this end time church? As always the Word of God has the answers:

I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. [John 15: 5-8]

These verses unveil the secret of true discipleship! Abiding: to abide means to stay, remain, place, live! To abide in Him would mean to live in Him! This means we must live in His Word! We must become a part of Him!

Most preachers today will preach that you must receive Christ in your heart to be saved, but how many preach you must also live in Him?! You are un-fulfilled with just Christ in you! You also must be in Him! Jesus said if you live in me and my Word lives in you, then you can ask what you will and it shall be given you! Praise God! I'm putting His Word in you right now! The Word of God must be sown in you in order for you to believe!

Most of you have received the seed of the serpent which is his perverted gospel! He has sown unbelief and false doctrine in your heart and now I must with the power of the

gospel cast him out of your heart and replace his lies with God's truth! All things are still possible! Jesus Christ is the same! Satan is a liar! Wake up and believe God!

How do we exercise the power? First of all, make your calling and election sure. Make sure you are in the faith! And if you find that Jesus really lives in you by the Holy Ghost; then you must now begin to live in Him through His Word! God is not a liar. If you abide in Christ and he abides in you, you will be able to ask what you will! And children, it will be done! You see when you have this relationship with Christ, your desires will become His Will and His desires. This is how the Father is glorified! God wants to answer your prayers! God is not glorified by not healing and working miracles! He is glorified when miracles happen! Praise the Lord! Remember, God wants to answer your prayer! He has already provided your healing! Just mix your faith with His Word! You must approach Him in positive faith believing He will perform that which you ask of Him.

Here is how James said it: *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing from the Lord" [James 1:5-6].*

James also tells us the prayer of faith shall save the sick! Shall save the sick? It doesn't say that the prayer of faith might save the sick! It says, shall save the sick. He goes on to say that the Lord shall raise him up. This is God's Word! It cannot fail, But, you must believe.

Here is what we must believe. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" [Hebrews 11:6].*

Now look closely at that scripture . . . First you must have faith, you must believe. Now you must believe that Jesus Christ is our God. Do you believe that? Alright, now you must

believe that He is a rewarder. Remember, Jesus has already told us that His will is to save, heal and deliver! Therefore, He most assuredly is a REWARDER. And who does He reward? Those that diligently or earnestly seek Him.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive [Matthew 21:22].

Do you believe it? Does He really mean all things? Yes my friend. He means exactly what He says! Are you waiting on Him, or is He waiting on you?

Now I do not know what your needs are. But I can truthfully say that it is not God's will for you to be sick! Sickness is of the devil! Your heart may cry, "Father help thou mine unbelief!" And even in this, we must believe that God will help us!

Are you ready to mix your faith with God's Promises? Remember, we must believe that he is God! Do you believe that Jesus is our God?! Now we must also believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him! Do you believe He will reward you, and will give whatever you ask Him for?

Praise God, if you can believe nothing will be impossible for you. You have mixed His Word with your faith!

Are there any limits to what God will do for you? Is His great power beyond our human grasp, far away in the infinite reaches of the universe somewhere?

I will close with one of the most powerful scriptures found in all the Bible . . .

Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. [Ephesians 4:20]

God's power will work in each of His Born Again creatures! It's in you! Only believe!