

The simplicity of true faith – part 3

Divine Encouragement to Faith.

(Luk 21:34) *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

When the divine head says to us “and take heed to yourselves” what is he saying to us? It is divine encouragement to faith. Why? Brethren the only successful way you can and your hearts not be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life is by divine faith.

We are told in John 5:39 to "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." Here is the same thought. What kind of search are we being encouraged to undertake? Is this a casual or laodicean search? What does it take to obey Christ's command? What do we understand by the word search? To search means to look diligently for something until it is found. But this kind of search must be inspired and aided by the Spirit of God. And hence to see what God have put in the scriptures for us will be perceived by faith.

Here is another word of divine encouragement to faith. He says, (Luk 11:9) *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

(Luk 11:10) *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

(Luk 11:11) *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

(Luk 11:12) *Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

(Luk 11:13) *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Inspiration writes, “O what amazing love and condescension! The Lord Jesus encourages His believing ones to ask for the Holy Spirit. By presenting the parental tenderness of God, He seeks to encourage faith in the reception of the gift. The heavenly Parent is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than earthly parents are to give good gifts to their children. What greater thing could be promised? What more is necessary to awaken a response in every soul, to inspire us with a longing for the great gift? Shall not our half-hearted supplications be turned into petitions of intense desire for this great blessing? {ST, August 7, 1901 par. 6, 7}

Look ye out brethren and receive the divine encouragement to faith given to us in God's word. Shall we take it? We sure do need it more than ever.

Look with me at Mat 21:22. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Does not this word from the master encourage to faith. Assuredly. These all things are all in the promises given to us. I say there are in the promises not outside of them. These words are not ordinary words. Look at them again. There are Spirit and life.

Now take a look at (Joh 16:24) *Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.* He says up until now you have asked nothing in my name then He says ask, brethren He says ask. And what shall we do?

He says to us, up to now you have not asked anything in my name, so what I want you to start doing is to ask and you will not be able to contain your joy. It will be so full not even trials, persecutions and daily petty annoyances can stop the flow. Oh what simplicity of faith oh how full of blessings. Oh what divine

encouragement.

(Joh 15:16) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Oh He says I have chosen you. I have set you up in place and since I've done that your fruit will never cease, the fruit should remain. What comfort, what consolation. We are ordained to bring forth fruit brethren, and what else? That our fruit should remain, for what reason, "that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." Oh what divine encouragement to faith. Has it not moved our hearts?

Note the encouragement in the very first words of Inspiration, "We do not ask for enough of the good things God has promised. If we would reach up higher and expect more, our petitions would reveal the quickening influence that comes to every soul who asks with the full expectation of being heard and answered. The Lord is not glorified by the tame supplications which show that nothing is expected. He desires every one who believes, to approach the throne of grace with earnestness and assurance. Do we realize the magnitude of the work in which we are engaged? If we did, there would be more fergency in our prayers. Our entreaties would rise before God with convincing earnestness. We would plead for power as a hungry child pleads for bread. If we realized the greatness of the gift, if we desired the attainment of the blessing, our petitions would ascend with earnestness, importunity, urgency. It would be as if we were at the gate of heaven, soliciting entrance. {ST, August 7, 1901 par. 8}

Now this case recorded in scripture to demonstrate the divine encouragement to faith.

Let's look to (Mar 7:25) For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

(Mar 7:26) The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

(Mar 7:27) But Jesus said unto her, *Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.*

Brethren these words of Jesus were divine encouragement to faith. And her response was a true faith response in such simplicity that it brought the blessing sought.

(Mar 7:28) And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

And the blessing could not be withheld.

(Mar 7:29) And he said unto her, *For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.*

(Mar 7:30) And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

Oh see the divine encouragement to faith in verse 27 and that encouragement was received and brought the blessing sought. She caught Jesus with his words.

Now note this encouragement to faith by Ellen White, "I do not understand the tameness in the requests offered to God. We are to urge our way into the very presence of God, into the Holy Place of the Most High. We are to plead for that which we most need,--the bread of life, the leaf from the tree of life. As Jacob wrestled with the angel, saying, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me," so we are to wrestle in prayer until we prevail. We are to ask with an urgency that will not be turned away, that expects God to bestow His blessings with a liberality that is an assurance to all fear. {ST, August 7, 1901 par. 9} Oh for a faith that will not shrink.

The Lord is not done yet with His divine encouragement. Look what He Says in (Isa 45:11) Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. What does He wants us to do? Ask Him. Ask Him.

(Isa 45:12) I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

Brethren this is extremely wide and broad divine encouragement to faith.

The greatness of the gift and our need of it should fill us with a hungering desire for it. God expects us to gain every day a clearer understanding of His will. He asks for the consecration to His service of all that we have and are. If you have caught a glimpse of Heaven's truth, turn not away. Be not disobedient to the heavenly vision. Walk in the light you have received, and your pathway will grow brighter and brighter. In the light shining from Calvary, you will see the sinfulness of sin, and you will see also God's willingness and power to save from sin. The Lord holds out to you the offer of partnership with Himself. Uniting with Christ, you can work the works of God. {ST, November 21, 1906 par. 6}

As we conclude note this encounter with Nathanael which again demonstrates the divine encouragement to faith.

Turn to (Joh 1:47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, **Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!**

(Joh 1:48) Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, **Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.**

Oh the divine encouragement to faith in the words of Jesus and the response of faith by Nathanael.

(Joh 1:49) Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

(Joh 1:50) Jesus answered and said unto him, **Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.**

Oh what divine encouragement to faith. Oh we have read these passages maybe many times, but have we studied or thought on them? What I'm seeking to draw your mind to is the angle of the divine encouragement to faith that God gives us in His divine pronouncements and promises.

Oh let us continue to receive this divine encouragement to faith. Look at the thoughts given us through Isaiah(Isa 33:6) And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, *and* strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD *is* his treasure.

The wife cannot be ready, God's final movement cannot be victorious unless the divine encouragement to faith is received and works in all to make the fear of the Lord their treasure.

(Joh 8:12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Let's follow him brethren and we shall not only walk in light but we shall enjoy the light as we become mediums of light through the divine faith of Jesus.

Yours in the simplicity of true faith

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