

## Divine Encouragement to live by the Faith of Jesus.

The bible is filled with words of comfort encouragement and hope. Filled with precious promises from our kind gracious father. But there is divine encouragement to us to cause us to live by the faith of the Son of God to live by that divine faith moment by moment to live that life that knows no defeat.

**Rom 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. KJV

**Rom 10:17** No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ. C.E.V

**Rom 10:17** So faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ. E R V

(Rom 10:17) So faith comes from hearing the message, and the message that is heard is what Christ spoke. G W

Our loving saviour says in (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 does he wants us to understand? What thoughts does he wants us to receive? He wants you and I to perceive and receive the divine encouragement he has put in his word so we may live and exercise faith. Why? Brethren the only successful way you can take heed and your hearts be not overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life is by the exercise of that divine faith. That divine faith which Christ brought from heaven is the faith of Jesus.

The faith of Jesus is that faith which brings into the life of the believer in Jesus the righteousness, the virtue, the very character, of God—the faith that brings into the life of the believer the power of God to do the will of God in the life.

And inspiration states, “And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus. {3SM 172.3}

**And Jesus says in Heb 10:7** Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

We are told in John 5:39 to "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." What kind of search are we being encouraged to undertake?? What does it take to obey Christ's command? 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 given to us in the scriptures will be perceived only by that divine 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?*

We have come to times when we must know how to ask in faith and receive.

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 live by 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 us to live by faith even the faith of Jesus? 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. What an encouragement is this?** 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? Shall we live by faith and ask?

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.

Oh we have a problem in asking. We want to ask in our own way not the divine way.

James 1 vs 5-7 is divine encouragement to go the divine way to receive the divine answer.

Let's take his thoughts to us in (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 what divine encouragement! 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?

**Mat 9:28** And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, **Believe ye that I am able to do this?** They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

**Mat 9:29** Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it done unto you.**

Note the encouragement in the very first words from 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}. What encouragement.

The touch of living faith brings virtue from Christ to the soul; but without this faith we are like the multitude that thronged the Saviour and yet felt nothing of his saving power, because they did not bring themselves in close connection with Christ. {ST, June 8, 1891 par. 4}

Peter and John talks about this divine faith in (Act 3: 6, 16) And by faith in his name hath his name made this man strong, whom ye behold and know: yea, the faith which is through him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

We must realize our need of Christ, believe in his power to supply our wants, and then come unto him. Our love is to be quickened by the love he has given us. By trusting, confiding faith, we may have joy in the midst of sorrow. I know this by experience. Affliction upon affliction has fallen upon me. When my eldest-born was taken from me by death, I found Jesus a precious helper. And when my youngest-born was laid in the grave, I rejoiced that Christ was my Saviour. When my husband was taken away by death, and we laid the faithful, worn warrior away to rest till the morning of the resurrection, I felt that it was my duty to testify to the people of the sustaining power of Jesus' grace and love. Since then I have taken up my life-work alone, and yet not alone, for Jesus has been with me. {ST, June 8, 1891 par. 5}

These words of encouragement in Col filled her heart. (Col 3:16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. (Col 3:17) And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The faith that will bring us peace in sorrow and tribulation is the faith we must all have, for it is an anchor to the soul, entering into that within the veil. In times of sorrow or joy we all need a Saviour to love us, and he is at our right hand to help and comfort in every time of trial and affliction. He says, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." {ST, June 8, 1891 par. 6} Oh what a thought from the divine counselor.

When our minds are engrossed with the things of this life, we cannot bear fruit to the glory of God. Living faith, expressed by a life of faithful obedience, will avail to lift us out of this bondage to the world. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Steadfast faith gives evidence that we are closely connected with the Saviour. Let us put away everything like fretfulness, and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord. Let us talk of his love, and sing of his grace and power. Faith will connect us with him, and we shall be part of the Living Vine, and bear much fruit. We shall be patient and loving, and all the powers of our being will be devoted to God. Whatever gift you have, it is of God, and it should be given back to him; but how many devote their God-given ability to the glorification of self! Christ wants us to come close to himself, to accept the great sacrifice he has made for us. He is anxious to be our Helper, to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows. Will you let him help you? Say to the world, "Jesus is my Saviour; he saves me today, making me his obedient child, and enabling me to keep all his commandments." If you knowingly disregard one of God's commandments, you do not have saving faith. Genuine faith is a faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. Genuine faith will lead you to seek for the salvation of precious souls for whom Christ has died. We are to reveal Christ to them in our character and life. {ST, June 8, 1891 par. 7}

If we are living Christians, we shall not inquire, when some new requirement is presented to us, "Is this convenient?" but we shall render willing obedience to all the commands of the Lord. It was not convenient for Christ to come from his throne of glory to this dark world and die, but it was expedient for us; for it is through his death that we are to find life and salvation.

**Heb 2:15** and might deliver all them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

"Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the fruit of faith. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable. God is able and willing "more abundantly" (Hebrews 6:17) to bestow upon His servants the strength they need for test and trial. The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be well laid and firmly established, but God can overthrow the strongest of these. And this He does in His own time and way, when He sees that the faith of His servants has been sufficiently tested." (PK, 164)

So where are we at the present? We are told where we are if our life is a life of faith (Heb 12:22) but ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, (Heb 12:23) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

If we would permit our minds to dwell more upon Christ and the heavenly world, we should find a powerful stimulus and support in our warfare against sin. By faith we may look upon the crowns laid up for those who shall overcome; we may listen to the exultant song of the redeemed: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;" "for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood." Pride and love of the world will lose their power as we contemplate the infinite love of Christ, and the glories of that better land so soon to be our home. {ST, June 19, 1884 par. 5}. Oh we need to live and "endure, as seeing him who is invisible. Oh the faith of Jesus.

We are told of the contemplation of the thoughts of faith filled Abraham in (Heb 11:9) By faith he became a sojourner in the land of promise, as in a *land* not his own, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **Heb 11:10** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. Are we standing there brethren? Are we headed there or destined only for this evil world?

"An unyielding trust, a firm reliance upon Christ, will bring peace and joy to the soul. But let none imagine that without earnest effort on their part they can retain the assurance of God's love. When the mind has been long permitted to dwell only on earthly things, it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought. That which the eye

sees and the ear hears, too often attracts the attention and absorbs the interest. But if we would enter the city of God, and look upon Jesus in his glory, we must become accustomed to beholding him with the eye of faith here. The words and character of Christ should be often the subject of our thoughts and our conversation; and each day some time should be especially devoted to prayerful meditation upon these sacred themes. Ibid

“Though Paul was at last confined in a Roman prison, shut away from the light and air of heaven, cut off from his active labors in the gospel field, and momentarily expecting to be condemned to death, he did not yield to doubt or despondency. From that gloomy dungeon came his dying testimony, full of a sublime faith and courage that has inspired the hearts of saints and martyrs in all succeeding ages: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." {ST, June 19, 1884 par. 14}

The glorious reward that awaits this hero of faith,--a crown of righteousness, and eternal life in the presence of God,--may be won by each of us. Jesus and holy angels are waiting to give us the help we need. Every prayer sent up in faith from an honest heart will be heard, and the petitioner will have his request when he needs the blessing most. Sometimes we ask for things that are not for our own good or the glory guide our feet. By divine grace, all who will may climb the shining steps from earth to Heaven, and at last, "with songs and everlasting joy," enter through the gates into the city of God. **ST, June 19, 1884**

Do we believe that? There can be no more time for unbelief it is now and forever more the time to believe God. "There is a deep, rich, and full experience for us individually to gain. We shall every one of us be tested and tried. We have a rough pathway before us; but Jesus has traveled this way, and he knows just how to help us. Faith lightens our burdens and relieves our weariness by the anticipation of Heaven at our journey's end. Faith rejoices in hope, and is patient in affliction. Faith waxes strong and valiant in conflict, and conquers in the great fight of temptation. We must have a living faith,--a faith that will hold the soul in the hour of trial; for everything that can be shaken will be. May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1884

Will the talents that God has given you here, glorify him in the world to come? It rests with you to decide. God has stated the conditions upon which you may be saved in his kingdom. Says the Saviour: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." If you fulfill these conditions through the grace of Christ, you will behold the matchless charms of the King in his beauty, you will see the attractions of heaven, you will realize at last what is "the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" that will be given to the overcomer. Will you have the eternal riches that are reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God through faith? This is the question that each one will have to decide for himself."

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Php 4:9) and the God of peace shall be with you.

**May our request be as recorded in Luk 17:5** And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. **2Co 1:24** : for by faith ye stand. **Mar 11:22** And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**

Let us do it brethren.

Yours in the divine encouragement to faith

P L Blackman

19/10/2024