

“TWO GREAT HINDRANCES”



S26A 1205 21C

We have all been born with two great hindrances that will shut out the entire power of God from working in our lives, and if not gotten rid of, it will hinder our receiving all that God wants to do for us.

The first hindrance to enjoying all the many blessings that Jesus Christ restored for us is ‘human merit’. We were born with the idea that God will help us when we are doing good things in this life, and we will not see any of His help if He does not see some merit in us.

But truthfully, we cannot gain God’s favor by anything we do or fail to do. We already have God’s favor and blessing by the merit provided for us by that great work done on Calvary’s Cross.

The second great hindrance is ‘human effort’. You will notice, it is ‘human merit’ and ‘human effort’. It is that self-life that we were born with. “I can do it myself.” But we have it all wrong. We are to live by God’s power alone without any effort of our own. God has given us the New Testament plan where He has provided all the power, and then He gave us His Son to pay the total price for us without a particle of merit on our part. God does not take account of any of our human actions and only takes account of the Blood of His Son.

It is a wonderful blessing to have all the merit and power provided for us by God, which makes Him our ‘All in All’.

2 Corinthians 5:18, “*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*” Abel was the example in the Old Testament and Cornelius in the New Testament, of depending on

the merits of the Blood. All the merit that God requires is a blood sacrifice. The blood of a lamb in Abel’s case and the Blood of Christ in the case of Cornelius.

Since Abel depended on the blood of a lamb, which is only an emblem of Jesus’ Blood on the Cross. That lamb’s death was as if Abel had died to all the sins of his father Adam, having the old nature and power of Satan taken away and having God’s own righteousness; fully restored to the conditions as they were in the Garden of Eden.

Hebrews 11:4, “*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*”

We have another case like that in the tenth chapter of Acts in the New Testament. Peter came to see Cornelius and told him how Jesus was slain and hanged on a tree, and it was Jesus’ Blood that was all the merit that God required. Peter then ended by saying, in Acts 10:43, “*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*”

Cornelius believed and accepted those facts and (vs. 44) “*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*”

They were made free from everything of the old life, cleansed from all sin, and filled with God’s righteousness, just by accepting the death of Jesus Christ as their death to every evil thing. As they accepted those facts, they were set free, without any merit of their own. Although this had been in effect for many years, Cornelius did not receive any benefits of it until he believed it and accepted it by faith. Once they saw that God did not require any merit of their own, they were able to believe it and receive it without any trouble.

Cornelius was told the same thing as Abel. When they accepted the testimony about the blood sacrifice, Abel with the blood of a little lamb, and Cornelius with the Blood of Jesus Christ on the

Cross, God’s righteousness took possession of them.

That is exactly what God is telling us in Romans 6:1-11, “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Therefore, it is then, that we are dead to sin, not living for ourselves but living for Him who died for us and rose again. When Jesus died, it was as though we had died, that old evil nature, buried with Him in the grave, When He arose, we arose, a new creature. Free from all troubles and evils of this world and the power of Satan.

Paul said in Galatians 6:14, “*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*”

What he meant was that the Cross of Jesus Christ has made us free from the power of sin and all the troubles and diseases of the world, the same as if we were in the grave. The world has become as powerless to harm us as if it were dead and buried. In other words, every evil thing is dead as far

as harming us is concerned, we are dead to the world and every evil thing. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, in God's sight, it was the same as if we came back to live an entirely new life, a Christ-like person spiritually, in perfect health, and one who is under the full control and protection of God, just the same as Adam was before he rebelled.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has become our death and resurrection. For us to receive the benefits of this, we are to take the position that God says we are to take in Romans 6:11. We are not to see ourselves where we think we are or where Satan says we are, but we are to see ourselves where the Cross of Christ and His resurrection has placed us, and that is where God says we are. When we do, the result will be that sin, sorrow, sickness, and trouble of every kind will not be able to touch us.

We are not under the law, where man had to depend on human efforts and human merit, but we are under the Blood of Jesus Christ, where God forgives everything and gives us everything without any merit on our part.

We have all been born with the idea that we can accomplish things in our own strength and wisdom but when we do, we will find that there is no greater hindrance to receiving God's blessings.

When we accept the gospel plan and are walking in the light of it, we will find out that the least human device and effort we use, will shut out the entire power of God from working for us.

It is the same with healings. There are many things that one may trust in beside the medical field. They say that if they eat certain foods, it bothers them, but when they are careful and eat things that agree with them, they enjoy perfect health. Others may depend on fresh air, there is nothing wrong with fresh air, but one cannot depend on it to keep them well.

It is easy for people to think that they are trusting God for their health while down in their hearts they are expecting help from the climate they are

living in or dieting, fresh air, exercise, or whatever it may be. As the late Pastor said, God could heal a person of any disease even if they were in the stomach of a fish, if the occasion arose.

God is seeking to teach us all these fine points and lead us to the place where we can say that all our help is coming from Him alone. The very moment we depend only on the merits of Jesus' shed Blood on Calvary's Cross, the full power of the Holy Spirit will take possession of us and will work for us in doing anything that we desire to be done.

There are those who will say they are trusting God for healing but will still use human precautions. They will lie in bed and not make an effort to believe God and step out on the authority of His Word, until they see or feel some improvement. We cannot afford to lie around and 'play sick' for one moment after we have laid aside every human dependance and have asked God for healing.

The late Pastor said that he did that in the early part of his Christian life. One of those times, in the most terrible pain and distress, I got right out of bed and started on a hike. At first there was no sign of improvement, but I kept on going just the same, regardless of my feelings, and paid no attention to them whatever. God's Word said that I was well, and it was up to me to believe it by acting like a well man. I had not gone more than several blocks before I was fully and instantly healed by a direct touch of God's power. I can say, without a doubt, that if I had not gotten out of that bed and acted like a well person, I would not have been here today.

That is what it means to depend on the power of God instead of giving in to our feelings. The very moment we lie down because we aren't feeling well that moment we have ceased to depend on God and are depending on the 'rest cure.' We are to 'play well' instead of lying around 'playing sick'.

That is what the children of Israel did when the blood of a little lamb was placed on the doorposts down in the land of Egypt. God didn't tell them how

to get well, He told them they were already well. What He meant was that when that little lamb had died, and they sprinkled its blood on the doorposts of their houses, it was the same as if they died and were immune to all disease. They were as free from every kind of disease, sickness, pain, and trouble as someone lying in the grave.

That lamb's death meant that they also had died to every evil thing. Exodus 12:11, "*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.*"

They were free from every disease, aches, and pains and had everything provided for them while they were under the blood of a little lamb, how much greater is the promise that we have, as we are under the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

When every human plan is out of the way finally and forever, the great love and power of God can and will work for us and change every unpleasant situation. It doesn't make any difference what it is, whether the smallest or greatest detail of our life, when we depend on the merits of the shed Blood on Calvary's Cross, the power of God can and will work for us instantly.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has forgiven and cleansed our hearts from all sin, filled us with God's righteousness, and made us new persons. His death was our death to all sickness, disease, and every evil thing, all burdens, and troubles. His resurrection was our resurrection to a new life of perfect health and protection, with perfect peace and happiness. The very moment we are willing to believe these things and act upon them, God's power will make them absolutely real in our lives.



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