

A WAVERING HEART

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One of the greatest hindrances to victory is a wavering heart. That sounds like a small thing, but it hinders answers to prayer in the Christian life more than anything else. It prolongs our spiritual battles, our physical battles, and will cause battles, as it enables Satan to come up and fight us and eventually defeat us if this wavering heart is not gotten rid of. James 1:6: *"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 (the one with the waver in his heart) think that he shall receive anything from the Lord."*

A wavering heart is when we start out and do not make the final decision to go all the way with God. The waver always comes through that old traitor, self. The waver is just what prolongs the battle; it brings the difficulty; it hinders God from answering prayer. *"Let not that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord."* That does not mean that we will never receive, but we cannot receive with a waver in our heart; until we have finally settled to go all the way with God at any cost, God is unable to take us anywhere until we decide to go in the course of action that we have proven to be His Will.

We have another text in Matthew 4:5-7. Satan is tempting Jesus in this chapter. *'Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.'*

One may think, what does that have to do with a wavering heart, but that is just what wavering means, tempting the Lord. The devil is tempting Jesus to disobey that passage of Scripture. He wanted Jesus to jump down just to experiment, to see whether God would save Him or not. He wanted Jesus to try God and prove whether He was the Son of God; to prove whether God would be with Him if He jumped off that pinnacle. It was just an experiment with God.

That is one thing we cannot do with God; we cannot experiment with Him. When we undertake to trust God, we must burn our bridges behind us and then our victories will come quickly and we will receive answers to prayer at once. Jeremiah 29:13, tells us how easy it is to make good with God and what the conditions are. *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

A heart that has a waver has no intention to go through with God according to His plan, at any cost. God has a plan for everything, victory over every sin, for Christians to live an overcoming life, for peace in the home or in the workplace, a plan for health, He has a plan for financial victory, and when you accept God's plan it means you expect to go through at any cost and it will all work out and defeat and eliminate Satan at once and bring God and all that He has to your side for quick victory.

In Hebrews 11:6 we have the same thought. *"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."*

Diligence is just the opposite to wavering. The original meaning of the word "diligence" means "constant and energetic" in one's labor or business, but in this particular place it means to have a fixed determination to receive our deliverance in God's way at any cost, and never do anything else but go through until we find the deliverance that He has promised. Without that kind of deliverance, that kind of faith, it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God for deliverance must expect it, as His plan is that we must believe that He is just as faithful and loving as He says He is; just as merciful a deliverer as He says He is; and then stand fast whatever the cost, whatever the difficulty, and difficulties will be eliminated at once when we have a fixed determination to go through with God. It is our condition

of heart which has multiplied our difficulties. We make our battles by our heart's condition. King Saul is an example of that.

King Saul was a man who had a salvation that very few Christians of today have; not only had he surrendered his life to God, but he was filled with the Holy Spirit and was made another man; a man of faith and power, a man who led God's army to victory.

God Himself selected Saul out of all the chosen ones in Israel. When he was anointed with oil by Samuel the Spirit of God came upon him, and he was turned into another man. In the 13th chapter of 1st Samuel, we find he allowed a waver to get to his heart. He was in a very trying position; his home, his family, his loved ones were at stake; it was a risk from a human standpoint, but it is a great privilege to take a risk on God, and we know there can be no faith where there is no risk.

The most vital principle of faith is the risk we take. Faith is multiplied by risk, and the greater the risk you take on God the more valuable it is to your spiritual life. 1st Samuel 13:5, "*And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude.*"

The real thought is that the Philistines had come to battle against Israel, who had practically no army, for when the people saw the trouble they fled and hid themselves, so here was King Saul with women and children, and with very few weapons of war, to meet this vast host of Philistines; neither had they any help from God, because they had not offered the sacrifice, which should have been done before this battle. They neither had help from God nor man.

They were in a difficult place. Many people are in that very place today, but Saul put himself in that position; God saw there was a waver in his heart. He waited the seven days, which was the appointed time set by Samuel to offer the sacrifice, but Samuel did not appear. When that blood would be offered and they got under it, there was no army in the world which could have conquered them; God would have fought for them and made them victorious. I can imagine Saul paced up and down waiting those seven days; but, after the seven days, Samuel did not appear. It was not anything in Samuel or on his part which caused the delay; but it was the waver in Saul's heart.

Saul told them to bring him the peace offering and the burnt offering; and he offered the burnt offering and said: "What else could I do? I had to do something." Many times, we may hear that, and if we do, please do the right thing, which is to hold absolutely steady, whatever comes.

"And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. If he had waited ten minutes longer, he could have won the battle and saved the kingdom

"Therefore said I, the Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord, I forced myself therefore, and offered the burnt offering."

He had some good excuses, but they were manufactured by Satan. All the excuses you can offer will not pass for your failures before God, for they are all manufactured by Satan and bear his trademark. "*And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue; the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.*"

In 1st Samuel 28:5, we have an account of another battle with the Philistines on Mount Gilboa. "*And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.*"

That is always the result of a wavering heart, doubts and fears which disturb our peace are invariably the result of a wavering heart. The moment we have a waver, that moment Satan can fill us with doubt and fear, but the moment we burn our bridges behind us, doubt and fear will disappear and the real faith of God takes possession of us.

"*And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.*" Saul tried the Lord first; but God saw he intended to see a spiritualist if he did not

receive an answer quickly, he would go over to the witch of Endor and find out from her and this attitude shut out God's power at once. *"Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.*

It was that very waver in his heart that caused his suicide and his earthly and eternal destruction. It is written that Saul committed suicide and lost out entirely, and was lost forever, because of not keeping the commandment of the Lord, choosing to turn from it after he was once in the Truth, and filled with the Spirit, and then enquired of a woman with a familiar spirit.

These two things were strictly the cause of his destruction. We find this is prevalent in our faith. We come to God, confess and forsake our sins, and we start out to believe God's Word is true; we believe that God has fully forgiven our sins and cleansed us from all unrighteousness. We start out to prove God, but Satan sees, and God sees, that we have not burned our bridges behind us; that we have left a plank on it; there is a reserve down in our hearts that if things do not go our way, just as we think it should, we will turn back. This attitude opens the door for Satan to come in, he immediately begins to get us to believe that God has paid no attention to us. The plank left on the bridge is the very thing that will cause your defeat.

If you have confessed your sins, you are to forsake them at the cost of your life, and not only that, but BELIEVE THE WORK IS DONE, to take the stand of faith just as the three Hebrew young men did, saying, "The God that I asked to pardon and cleanse me is able to do it, and will do it; but if not, I will not doubt Him."

That will break the Devil's power at once. Doubts and fears would disappear, and you would find a power which will enable you to seek God with all your heart, and when temptations come you would find a power in you to resist; when people would be disagreeable, you would be kind, loving, and gentle.

In Mark 11:23 we have an admonition that we can harness God's power for anything we desire. God's power is at our disposal, if we burn our bridge of doubt behind us; and do not give ourselves the privilege of doubting God.

When Jesus said to the fig tree: "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever, it did not wait to dry up and wither away, but it did so at once. Neither do we have to wait for our sins to wither away, nor for anything else, (Mark 11:23, 24).

"And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 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. The revised version puts it: "Have the faith of God." *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever" (that takes in every person) "shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall admit no 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 ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

The thought in the original is: "If ye continue to believe that ye receive whatsoever ye ask, ye shall receive. It does not mean to believe half and doubt half; do not be half-hearted about it, or you will be defeated.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering"



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