

# Our Foundation for Faith

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There are many who think that the foundation of receiving deliverance is the amount of faith they have and that their faith would bring an answer to their prayer; they base their hopes on what they seem to have as the reason why God should answer their prayer. That is no foundation for faith. Satan's great object is to always cause us to get God's plan misplaced and apply it in a different way from what He really intended.

In the truth of God our faith does not act in that way, nor is it any foundation for our deliverance. If we had all the faith there ever has been in the world, it would not induce God to give us a particle of deliverance of any kind. Faith is a very small and insignificant part of this salvation and has no merits at all of its own; it is only the hand by which we take from God what has been purchased for us. A man earning a week's wages couldn't count on the fact that he reached out his hand as his reason to receive his wages. That wouldn't be reason at all; it would be the kind of work he did during the week which would determine if he received his wages, and not the act of reaching out his hand for the money.

It would be just as foolish to think because we have faith; it's a foundation for having our prayers answered. It isn't the foundation, and no reason why God should answer our prayers, or grant us any deliverance. All the faith in the world wouldn't cause God to answer us.

A sister from another state had a sick brother. She said when she prayed for him, she felt an assurance that he was going to be healed. She felt an assurance of faith, because of that feeling she was sure her brother would be healed; something she saw in herself, which was no reason why God would heal her brother. In no part of the Bible do we read that because we feel something, it is going to be accomplished. She had based her hopes of full deliverance upon a false foundation. When she went to see her brother, he was worse, instead of better, and continually grew worse. She felt the assurance when she prayed it was going to be done. That is no foundation of faith; we never read that in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, that because some one feels they are going to have their prayers answered the deliverance will be wrought.

God has given us a foundation for faith. That is the work of His Son on the cross; that is the foundation and beginning of all faith, and when we base our hopes and expectations of answered prayer on that work on the cross something will move in our favor and direction.

When you purchase goods at the store, you do not base your faith on getting those goods on what you feel about it, or how much faith you have in the dealer, you base your hopes of receiving those goods on one thing--the amount of money you have to pay for them, your only foundation. Deliverances from God--pardon and cleansing from sin, healing of disease, and our supply of every other need and desire has been purchased and paid for with the Blood of Jesus Christ; that is Our the reason God gives us these things, not because of how we feel about it, not because of anything about us, or in us; but simply because that price has been paid.

The Blood of Jesus Christ has purchased and paid for all the pardon, cleansing, and healing, that we need for time and eternity and that is the reason the Bible says, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." That includes all the spiritual, physical, and other blessings needed and desired. When we go to God, we must never lose sight of that great work on the Cross. It was a tremendous price that Jesus paid-- the Son of God lived in great glory and abundance of peace, happiness and joy; He had all power and authority in Heaven and on earth and yet He came down to this earth and took the form of a slave, mingling with the commonest and poorest people; then was arrested, and falsely accused and convicted; a cross was then laid on the ground and cruel, wicked soldiers, without any heart, or humanity about them drove spikes through his hands and feet and then placed that cross into the ground, just like they would a telephone pole for the wires, in the streets of Philadelphia. Jesus hung alive for six hours on that Cross, suffering and slowly bleeding to death--a horrible death and between two thieves; He, the Son of God, Who never committed a crime. He did it just for one reason--that you and I might be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, from the power of disease and trouble of every kind and might never have any trouble to bear. When we lay that great work aside and found our hopes of deliverances on some peculiarity of ours, some feeling, we make a terrible and most serious

mistake, because it will rob us of any deliverance that God could give us.

We should always get our eyes on the Blood, whether in type or reality, and there will be an instantaneous deliverance from every trouble we are in; sins will immediately be pardoned and cleansed, diseases instantly healed, troubles vanish away instantly.

Take those bitten ones in the desert; they were dying with a deadly serpent's bite and came to Moses, saying, "We have sinned, pray to the Lord for us, that He will take away these fiery serpents from us." Moses prayed for the people. and the Lord told him to make a serpent of polished brass and hang or nail it to a pole and place the pole into the ground, and it should come to pass that everyone who were bitten by the serpent, as they beheld that serpent of brass would live. That meant they were to be pardoned of that sin and rebellion, which brought that deadly disease, and destruction among them. All that trouble would be removed instantly, and it turned out exactly as God promised. That serpent hanging on the pole was a type or a picture of Jesus Christ hanging on the cross bearing all our sins, our diseases, and our troubles; in fact, everything which could disturb our peace. The moment these people saw that, just as we see our money has paid for the goods we purchased, they had perfect confidence to rise in health and peace. They had a real foundation for their faith.

You take those two men who were going to Emmaus. They were weighed down with trouble and care. It was after the resurrection, and they did not know that Jesus had risen from the dead. He was walking beside them, and overheard their speech and their sorrow, and He asked them what those things were of which they were talking? They began to tell Him the great story of the dreadful happenings in Jerusalem about Jesus, who had been murdered, and now it was three days since, and his body had also disappeared. Jesus began to open their minds to those Scriptures, which predicted these happenings, and what the cross of Jesus Christ meant. Their testimony was; while He talked with them and unfolded the plan of redemption, just the great work on the cross--their troubles and burdens disappeared. Why? Because our chastisement was upon Him on the Cross.

Isaiah 53:4-6, "*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for*

*our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed."*

Luke 24:32, "*And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?*" Did not our troubles disappear? They became happy, glad of heart; simply because that broken body and shed Blood had paid the price for their deliverance from trouble.

The same principle is involved in the case of the man in the streets of Lystra. Paul told him the story of the Cross-- Jesus Christ crucified--That all our sins, sorrows, and diseases were borne there, and we are FREE. That man was a cripple from his birth, had never walked a step. He sat there and heard the story and BELIEVED.

The moment Paul saw that, he said: "You are well, get up and walk." He arose immediately and leaped and walked. Why? Because he saw and accepted, as a foundation for the faith he arose with, that work on the Cross, and not the feeling in himself; nor did he consider any great faith he had; but simply what Jesus Christ had done on the Cross.

The next foundation of faith is of equal value with the Blood--the Word of God. So many people lay aside the Word of God--the promises of God. They were given to use and obey just as they are given in God's Word. We are partakers of all that the Blood has provided, through the Word, which is the same means through which we receive from men--through a word, so we receive from God through His written Word.

2nd Peter 2:4, "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.*" People often lay aside the promises and say, "Lord have mercy and help me." That is no promise. We should take a promise which applies exactly to our condition. The Bible tells us what we are to do and how we are to pray, and also tells us specifically what God will do in answer to that prayer. The very moment I pray as a promise directs and believe it just the same as if I had the deliverance, I shall receive what I have asked for.

We aren't to base our hopes and faith on what we can see or feel, but are to shut ourselves up to the bare Word of God, We are to say, after we have prayed, "I am delivered, not because I see anything; I am delivered

because God's Word says so. If we do not see a particle of deliverance, we are to take the same position that we take among men. We take the written law, or men's word above what we can see or feel, and it is only pure common sense to give God's Word the same consideration and weight.

Romans 10:17, "*Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*" The world's faith is by hearing, and hearing by the word of men; there is no difference in this faith issue; one is in God, the other in men; like principles are involved--pure common sense.

Matthew 8: A centurion who came to Jesus asking for the healing of his servant, who was grievously tormented in his body. Jesus said, "*I will come and heal him.*" The centurion answered saying, "*Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed.*"

He practically said, "Your Word only will be all the evidence I require." He didn't want to feel anything, didn't ask for any special assurance, did not think about how serious the case was, or anything else; but, "Lord, thy Word is sufficient evidence, it is all I require to know that my servant will be healed."

That was the foundation for healing. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled and said unto them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel." Jesus said he had not found such faith in the Word of God, based wholly on that Word, apart from everything else, and He said these are the kind of people "*who are coming from the east and west, and sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

The so-called children of the kingdom are those who are basing their faith in almost everything else but God's Word. We cannot receive our deliverances, nor be prepared for heaven unless we base our faith on the bare Word of God. Matt. 8:5-13, "*Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.*" *And his servant was healed in the self-same hour.*"

Another example is that of the nobleman who came in behalf of his son, who was at the point of death. Jesus said unto him: "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." The man was not worrying about

signs, but he wanted to feel it was done in his heart, or he wanted some other evidence besides the Word of God that his son would be healed.

So, he said, "Come down, ere my child die." It was natural he would say that. Jesus did not go with Him at all; but he threw him a lifeline, which He has been throwing us for many years: "Go thy way; thy son liveth." He was miles away from home and there was no evidence, no assurance, but the bare Word of God, spoken by God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, in the flesh. "Your son is well, he is healed." The man had a struggle, but "the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went away. (John 4:47-50.) When he reached home, the servants ran out to meet him, saying: "Your son is delivered."

He asked, "When did it happen?" "At a certain hour yesterday, the fever left, and the disease disappeared." The man knew it was just the hour that the Word was spoken, and he founded his faith on that Word.

We are to base our hopes on the bare Word of God; accept that Word as sufficient evidence for our deliverance. It's not how serious the disease is or what the experience is, but to base our hopes and faith on the finished work on the Cross, and claim our deliverance on the bare Word of God, those exceeding, great and precious promises, and then start out acting like a well person, depending on God's power alone, we will be brought out into a place of perfect peace, righteousness and health. God's power will back up that Word. God's power is always manifested where the Cross is depended upon, and always works through the Word and the work on the Cross. The work on the Cross is the foundation of our faith. The price has been paid, the goods are ours and God's Word says they are given to us when we ask for them. Mark 11:24, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."

God never gives us the deliverance because we believe or that our faith is the foundation reason for God granting us these things; as faith is only the hand which takes from God, just as the hand of man takes his week's salary; it is the hand which takes what the Blood of Christ has provided and what the Word of God says is ours as we BELIEVE.