

# Substitutes for the Real Thing!

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If a substitute has taken the place of real faith in God, we must know of it and make corrections. Faith and trust on God *only*—is the issue. We are to believe that 2 Corinthians 1:20 “*All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*” It is to keep the promises on top and our troubles on the bottom.

God has promised and that is evidence enough to believe Him for—the temporal supply; the spiritual victory; the physical healing; the attitude change; the strength to complete a task; or for any other victory and blessing God has promised—the *merit* of the Blood *paid* for them.

Anything God *could* supply that would add to our happiness in *this life* is far less than the gift of the *next life* in Heaven. Romans 8:32 “*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*”—including Paradise!

Jesus promised John 16:23 “*Verily, verily, I say to you, as many things as ye may ask of the Father in my name, He will give you; 24 till now ye did ask nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*” We are joyful for the *supply* but more so for the *promise*.

There should not be a *vacancy* in our life. The Blood of Christ *provides* it, but Word of God *promises* it, and the power of God *supplies* it. The Holy Spirit *gives* us the enlightenment

needed and the deliverance as promised. God sent His Son to provide every need; the Holy Spirit enables the reception of it; and God’s divine power does the work.

Such principles are applied in business. To receive any spiritual promise, we ask *God directly* for it. Unbelievers are not willing to apply this principle, because it means giving up their *sinful* ways of *self*. They are not willing to follow the instructions of the Word.

The Bible example of a woman who had no food and would have died of starvation had she stayed with her self-plan explains this. She needed God’s help and was willing to accept His divine plan. The prophet was told 1 Kings 17:9 “*Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.*”

The devil has 1001 substitutes of *trust* today, but they are all wrong plans and have terrible *results*. Proverbs 16:25 “*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*”

This widow had food for one last meal—and Elijah was sent to ask her to give that to him. This was *God’s way* and His plan for delivering her from depending on a substitute. From a natural standpoint, no one would give their last meal to a stranger—they would try to make the food last as long as possible.

The world’s way of no faith in God eventually ends in *death* here and *torment* hereafter, but God’s way of faith and trust on Him means *life* in this world and *eternal life* hereafter. 1 Timothy 4:8 “*Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*”

A small thing can easily stand between us and God—and it can hinder His divine power from working. God wants no one to do without—and

definitely does *not* want anyone to die of starvation. He proved this by sending His Son to suffer on the Cross for six hours to bear every sin, sorrow, sickness, poverty, disease, trouble, and lack in our life Isaiah 53:4-6.

The woman held on to her human plan—hindering God’s power. It was a *small* amount of oil and flour but it was a *big* hindrance to God’s divine power. It seems that such a *small* thing could not hinder such *great* power, but it did—and it would have landed her and the son in the flames had she not eliminated this *substitute for the real thing*—through repentance and faith.

By obeying the Word, God was able to save them from the flames and to provide food during a famine. They had been allowing a small amount of flour and oil to block the mighty power of God, but she made a right choice—gave up *her way* and followed *God’s way*.

Every human plan, pill, or way of the world must be put aside forever if we want God’s power to work for us. Most who *say* they have faith in God do not really *believe* the Bible means what it says, so their faith is in man, medicine, and money to get what they want. That is a substitute for real trust on God—a most *serious* mistake!

The *power* of God—like parting the Red Sea; stopping the attack of lions; or quenching the violence of fire—is without cost! Millions play the Lottery—hoping for millions or billions of dollars; but no one has to dig for gold or gamble for cash—they can go directly to God and ask Him in faith for what is needed.

If we are *not* receiving our blessings; if we are not obtaining a job; finding a house to rent or a vehicle to drive—if we are not receiving answers to prayer, or seeing attitudes change in loved ones, we might be depending on 1 Kings 17:12 “*A handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar.*” If that is

the case, we need to eliminate any substitute so the power of God can work.

It is very helpful to know the *cause* of any trouble—whether it be a vehicle that will not start, or a computer that does not boot. It can be a small blockage in the fuel-line, or a wrong character in the computer registry, but when the problem is located the remedy is next.

In receiving anything from God, we must *persist* and *insist* as the example of the woman who just asked for Matthew 15:27 “*The crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*” She was determined to have her deliverance in the right way. The devil had seriously oppressed her daughter, but the power of God gave the victory through faith in His promises.

Only the power of God can break Satan’s grip on our lives; only the power of the Almighty can deliver us from doubt, fear, and unbelief. We are to be as determined as the woman was—that we are trusting only on *God* for the answer, because He is the only *One* who can grant it. Jesus then said Matthew 15:28 “*O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.*”

The Blood of Christ paid for the victory—we have the right to *claim* it and *receive* it. Any substitute must be eliminated for the answer to be given. It really is no use praying until we are ready to receive it by *faith* alone. With a willingness to trust God in faith, He will lead each step we take until 2 Chronicles 16:9 our “*Heart is perfect toward him.*”

That example of *persistence* and *insistence* to have the answer is for our benefit. Luke 11:8-10 “*I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives,*

*and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*”

The next principle for answered prayer is to accept the Word of God as evidence the bill is paid. The nobleman applied that principle—he came to Jesus for the healing of his boy; and a centurion came to Jesus on behalf of his servant. The official wanted to *see* the healing; but the centurion wanted to *hear* the Word—from God, *that* was enough!

It’s really about a change of attitude, but most people will *not change* their attitude. The Scribes and Pharisees would not change *theirs*, so they did not *receive* from God either. Many who are professing faith *now* have the same attitude as *then!* They will *not* accept just the Word as enough evidence their prayer is answered.

The centurion believed the Word—nothing more was needed. Matthew 8:8 Just “*Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed!*” This faith in God’s Word is in contrast to Christians today who insist on *seeing* signs or *taking* pills before they believe. Matthew 16:4 “*A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.*”

The centurion didn’t read the New Testament but only had scrolls of the Old Testament. He did not have Bible examples to help, but he still had enough *faith* in Jesus to accept His Word as enough *evidence* that his servant was healed.

When we insist on *seeing* improvement and *feeling* better before believing, Satan has *his* way; but the moment we walk by faith on the Word of God because we already believe we have the victory, the Lord has *His* way with us. Satan wants us to put our *troubles* between *us* and the *Word*; but God wants us to keep the *Word* between *us* and the *troubles*.

The moment we see the situation as the Word says—Satan *must* leave! It is why he constantly

focuses our attention on what is *seen* or *felt*—or on our *weakness* and *lack* of faith, or on the *ache* and *pain*. The devil wants to *hide* the Word under our troubles—he wants to *conceal* the promises under our oppressions.

He makes it easy to bury the promises under the troubles, but now that we know of that, we can bury the troubles under all the promises—which are now *on top!* It is our *choice* which is on top—the *trouble* or the *promise!*

Jesus said to the man who was *ready* to believe in faith. John 4:50, “*Go your way; your son lives*”—and he believed the word Jesus spoke. He put the Word *on top* and the boy’s condition *on the bottom*. He looked miles away to where his boy was and saw him delivered. The man looked through his telescope of *faith* and he saw the deliverance as promised.

He did not allow the devil to have him accept any substitute for the real thing—the plain and powerful Word of God that said: John 4:50 “*Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.*”

When the man was told of the exact time his son was healed—it was the exact time Jesus said John 4:53 “*Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.*” There is no substitute for the *power* and the *promises* of God.



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