

Wavering Faith Reveals Worry & Doubt

Which Hinders Victory Thru Christ-Pt 2

S351R 0214 24W

Part one of this lesson explained that one of the greatest hindrances to victory in answered prayer, is precisely, a wavering faith in our heart. An uncertain faith has caused more battles (and prolonged more battles) than any one thing. A wavering faith will prolong spiritual battles, physical battles, and financial battles, as it enables Satan to fight us to a standstill. "For ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the forces that control and govern this dark world, the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare." (Ephes.6:12) Thus, Satan can eventually defeat us if this wavering faith in our heart is not gotten rid of.

The verse James 1:6, describes the results of a wavering faith (this spiritual condition of the human heart) "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 think that he shall receive anything from the Lord."

The wavering in one's heart comes about through Satan in the self-life. It would not have gotten into our heart or mind; we would not have gotten into that battle; or, to where things did not go to suit us; if we had started out right in trusting God, with a determination not to waver in our faith. God can help us and strengthen our faith, when we have made up our mind that with His help our faith is not going to waver.

There is no victory or prayer that God will not answer, if we do not have wavering faith in our heart, for that is what prolongs the battle (brings the difficulty, and, hinders God from answering our prayer). "Let not that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord;" does not mean that we will never receive, but that we cannot receive with wavering faith in our heart.

Until we have finally settled to go all the way with God (at any cost), God is unable to answer or show his power in our behalf. That is a dreadful place to be in, spiritually. There can be no faith where there is no risk? That is what has eliminated real faith from most churches of today. Their teaching does not require anyone to take any risk on God for anything; all the risk they ever have is when they face death, or when Jesus comes. They do not take a risk on God for their health, nor in financial matters, or in anything else. "I was in the same position at one time (the late Pastor said). There are very few doctrines of the average church today, which calls for a stand of faith on God's Word for anything.

The most vital principle of faith is the risk we take. So, where there is no risk, there is no faith. Faith is multiplied by risk, and the greater the risk you have to take on God; .. the greater the possibilities of faith in Him. The greater risk you take on His Word; the more valuable it is to your spiritual life.

(The Pastor said), that he was talking to a sister who had "just started out to trust the Lord right," and she said, "one thing is happening after the other; I am out of one temptation and into another. Someone in my home is cranky, and before I know it, I am angry, .. (a thing that never happened to me before)."

(He replied) "Sister, the Lord is trying to help you; but you have not burned the bridge behind you. Had you not left a plank on the bridge, Satan could not have come over and attacked you. Our only hope is not to leave any weapon in Satan's hands, whereby he can attack us." (Mark chapter 11:), we have some instruction from Jesus Christ, that we can harness God's power for every scriptural desire. God's power is at our disposal if we will burn our bridges of doubt, and do not consider turning back to self.

When Jesus said to the fig tree (vs.14) "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever",...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 wait for anything else (to be done). (Vs,20-22 say), "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 cursed is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

(Vs 23-24), "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not 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 original) is; if you continue to believe that you will receive whatsoever you ask, you shall receive. It does not mean to believe halfway and doubt halfway; (do not be half-hearted about it, or you will be defeated).

We are given similar thought (Hebr.10:19-22) "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true and sincere heart."

A true heart means, a determination to go through at any cost, .. not to experiment. If you were to go into a store and say to the clerk; "I have only come to price out (things),"...you may get your prices, but you will not do that too many times. The clerk will send you away sooner or later, because you are only experimenting. The people they like to see are the ones who come to buy. That is the kind of people God likes to deal with, those who expect to go through with God and receive just what they come for. There are multitudes of professing Christians who come to God with empty baskets,... and they leave with empty baskets (because of their lack of faith).

(Hebr.10:21 says), "And, having a high priest over the house of God.".. That's a wonderful provision! Pause and think what a wonderful provision we have (and no excuses to bring). Satan may suggest one for us and we may think is a good one. (He will say) "It is not your fault, rather, it is God's fault." We may blame God for many of our troubles (and for not answering our prayer), but we will soon discover that it is not God's fault. When God seems to be far away from us, let us make no mistake about who moved.] God said that He will never fail nor forsake us, and He is faithful to His Word. It is our faith that wavers and falls short of fully

trusting on the Son of God.

(Vs.22-23) "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (means we are to be sure of our 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."

We must believe when we feel good and when we feel bad; when things go according to our ideas and when they go contrary to our plans. Sin, Satan, and oppressions must go, when we take a determined stand to believe God's Word, instead of what we can see or feel. When we cease putting a limit on our trust in God, and a limit to our faith, ... all things become possible to us.

That same thought is brought out in regard to Abraham's life; he was promised a son and he had some difficulty to believe, .. but, the Bible says, "against hope he believed in hope." He found that God told the Truth, even when everything, time, common sense, and experience said that it could not be. He also proved God was true to His Word. It is the same thing with divine healing (not to put a limit on our faith in God). Many people of the world cannot understand nor accept Divine healing. They say, "I cannot have faith for healing." "Of course, they could not have faith (the late Pastor said), when they have a box of pills in their pocket to depend on. It is only sensible when dealing with God, to be trusting Him alone, which is not only common sense, but Scriptural as well.

We used to think it was one of the most fanatical things we had ever heard, but, that attitude of heart (a limit on my faith in God) brought me face to face with premature death (he said). Then I settled it finally and forever, that there would never be a drop of medicine to pass my lips (and I was one time at the point of death). I thought it was one of the hardest things I ever did but thank God it was the best thing I ever did. I want to say that in two hours time, I was perfectly well, and I received a spiritual victory and blessing that I never had before; simply by burning that bridge behind me (which was destroying the pills that I had been trusting on). I was rescued from the jaws of death, and 'made a well person' in two hours.

It will work out beautifully in our finances also. Finances are the last thing which people burn the bridge behind them because it is one of the most difficult matters to burn the bridge for. You will never know how much you really know God, or, how much salvation you have, or, how much faith you have, until you come up against an empty pocketbook, an empty cupboard, and an empty stomach, .. and nobody but God to supply that need. You will find yourself saying, "I thought I had faith, but I am sorry to say it has all gone out the window."

We are very quick to criticize Israel for murmuring because they had no bread in the wilderness; but we are worse than they were when we are put to the test. We seem to have plenty of faith when we are living in the land of plenty.

Let us consider an illustration that will help us. The widow of Zarephath never received one bit of deliverance, until she took her stand for God; made her decision and took her stand of faith to trust God as her deliverer. She had only a handful of meal and a little oil in a cruse. Elijah met her and said, "Bring me a drink." As she went to bring him that, he called after her to bring him something to eat. (1 Kings chapter 17:). (This did look a little hard from the outside, for a stranger to come and ask for the last bit of food that she possessed, which was a handful of meal and a little oil.) Elijah had not had anything to eat for many days. (Vs.12) "And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

That must have been encouraging for Elijah, only a handful of meal, .. (and he was to be fed through her). However (vs.13-14) say, And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after "make for thee and for thy son". For thus saith the LORD God of Israel," (and here is what makes all the difference in the world, which is "at 'whose word' we do things'.) "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth."

(In other words), "you take your stand of faith) and look away from everything, from

every earthly source of help, and be willing to give up your earthly source of help" (which of course meant very much to her, and it would to us, also) "Give up your earthly source of help and put your confidence in God."

However, the widow made her decision in God's favor (to trust in Him, .. and her actions. proved her faith),(for vs.15 says), "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days."

That may seem like a peculiar experience. How would it suit you to go to bed with nothing in for breakfast for the next day? However, they had to depend on God for that meal and oil, .. but it lasted them during the entire famine. God saw that it was always there (on time) because they did not have a wavering faith in Him.

We can also consider the case of Israel. God 'took them through' the Red Sea, and, then closed the passageway after them. They were brought face to face with either trusting God or dying, and they chose to die. But God had mercy, and for forty years He supplied their needs, kept them in shoes, and their clothes never wore out.

We often read of Abraham, and we read of the three Hebrew young men, and, how the violence of fire was quenched; we read of how lion's mouths were stopped. All these things were accomplished because they burned their bridges of self-trust behind them. It almost cost them their lives (that was the risk which they took). It cost them every-thing they possessed; but they would not swerve one hair's breadth from what they knew to be 'God's will'. That is unwavering faith, and the kind of confidence that God wants to put in our hearts, when we surrender these lives fully to Him. He has promised to give us the 'fullness of the Spirit'.

So, let us consecrate ourselves, and start out to truly believe that we are going to live an overcoming life. Until we surrender our lives fully, that wavering of faith in our heart will be present, and Satan will cause us to doubt, and telling us, "You know that you are no better. Look how you feel. You do not meet things right. You get angry when things do not go to suit you." Before we know it, we are listening to Satan, and saying, "well, I guess maybe that is right."

That very attitude is what causes our failure, and we are sure to take a tumble; but, if you burn your bridge behind you, saying, "I have laid this on the altar of God", I have asked you, Lord, to "take full possession of me;" "I ask you to put your Spirit in me, and from this moment I am going to believe that you will do it;" "I am going to reckon myself dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ;" ... and, that Satan (and sin) "is a conquered foe."

Then God will enable us to be Christlike and loving in all circumstances, .. in the home life, with the children, 'with husband' (or 'with the wife'). If we are willing to believe God, we will find the life of Jesus Christ flowing through us. 'Doubt' and 'rebellion' is what hinders God from working in our behalf.

"If there is anyone here who has not settled the 'medicine question' (with God),(the late Pastor said), now is the time to 'settle it forever.' God was the Healer of every saved person in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. They did not have a doctor, nor take a dose of medicine, as far as the records go.

There is record of a 'backsliding king', however, who 'called for a doctor' and 'died in his sins'. Also, there is record of an unsaved woman who suffered many things with many physicians, without any help. When she touched Jesus' garment, she was not only healed but made a daughter of God in a moment's time and was in a saved position because she believed in Jesus Christ', and, put her trust on Him for her healing. Jesus called her daughter because she put her trust on Him. (Luke 8:48)"Daughter "your faith has cured you, go and be at peace."

God extends that same promise to us, and everyone else who will take a position of unwavering trust on His Son (John 3:16). It is also the foremost requirement that He places on the believer (John 6:29), that is, to "be believers in Him whom He has sent."

We can begin with Abraham and go down the list to the last apostle, and we will never find a saved person who took a 'dose of medicine', or employed a doctor after they were saved, ..and God never failed them. If we are trusting God for our body, then we settle the medicine question finally and forever, and take our stand on God's Word that we will not resort to human means. From that moment Satan's power is broken and his influence is destroyed.

When we allow ourselves a right to have a little medicine on hand (so if the battle gets hot, we will take it), .. we will not go very far before Satan aggravates the condition (and tempts us to use that 'human remedy').

If, however, we settle it to place our body in God's hands and 'leave it there', saying, "whether I die, I will die trusting God", or "whether I live, I will live trusting Him", then (Psalm 125:1) will be verified (and guaranteed) in our life. "They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." And Jesus told us (John 11:25-26) "I am the Resurrection and the Life" "he who believes in Me, even if he has died, he shall live; and everyone who is living and is a believer in Me shall never, never die."

(God's reward, for an unwavering faith and trust on His Son).

Some main points of: A WAVERING FAITH HINDERS VICTORY:

- 1./ Uncertain faith is always a hindrance to answered prayer, so God wants to eliminate it from our heart, so we can make a final decision to go through with trusting Him for victory.
- 2./ Faith in God, always involves taking a risk on His Word, for where there is no risk, there is no faith involved.
- 3./ We may "lose the human source we are depending on financially", (for our faith on God to be made perfect.)
- 4./ Medicines must be given up, for one's faith in God for healing to be perfected, as in the example of the woman who turned from doctors, to simply touch the hem of Christ's garment and be healed).
- 5./ We must make a final decision to have unwavering faith on God's written promises, for the same results as she got.



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