

FAITH- THE STEP TO VICTORY

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It is only one step from trouble to peace, from sickness to health, from defeat to victory. It doesn't matter what kind of trouble we may be in; it is only one step to victory.

A member once reported that they were in great trouble and sorrow, but once they took that step of faith, the whole situation changed. The trouble and sorrow were turned into happiness and blessing. This is something that all of us can prove when we learn how to apply this principle of Truth.

How happy we would be if we knew that we could have all we wanted of all the spiritual blessings we desired, all the health and protection we needed, victory in our homes, in the workplace and everywhere else.

These are the situations where God wants us to turn to Him in faith, without wavering; for He is faithful that hath promised. He wants to hear and answer every prayer that we offer in the Name of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19 & 20, *"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."*

The veil or the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two when Jesus died on the Cross and God wants us to come before Him in boldness, by the Blood of Jesus, in full assurance of faith, knowing that our prayers have been heard and answered

Hebrews 10: 22&23, *"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; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

God wants to do this for us, and the Blood of Christ has given us a Divine Right to have our every prayer heard and answered, but we need to take that step of faith to let the answer in.

Satan's great object is to confuse and mystify the receiving end, because he cannot interfere with the giving end, as God is greater than he is. There are times when he will interfere on the receiving end because we are not always willing, or know how to take, this step of faith.

Faith always implies a risk. It is to count it as something done and then to act as if it is done, without seeing or feeling any change. Divinely speaking, it is accepting God's Word as the only evidence that our prayer has been heard and answered, and then, of course, we are to act accordingly.

It is a positive fact, that the Blood of Jesus Christ has given us a divine right to have our every prayer heard and answered. God's promises tell us that "He hears and answers every prayer we offer in Jesus' Name." We can pray the words that Jesus prayed at the grave of Lazarus. He prayed in an audible voice:

John 11:41-42, *"Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."*

Jesus wanted the people to hear what He said in His prayer. He wanted them to know that God would hear their prayers just the same as God was hearing His prayer.

Just before Jesus went away, He told His disciples in, John 16:26-27, *"At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."*

Jesus meant that "God will hear your prayers just as willingly as He will hear mine." That almost seems too good to be true, and yet it is true. It is a promise written down in God's Word for our encouragement and blessing. God will hear our prayers just as quickly as He will hear His Son's prayers.

Then we have in 1st John 5:14-15 just what Jesus said at the grave of Lazarus, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him,"* or the assurance of, or the positive knowledge that we have, *"that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."*

"According to God's will," means everything that God wants us to have to make us happy, righteous, and well. All the blessings that have been provided for us on the Cross. Just as Isaiah 53:5 tells us, *"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."*

This covers everything from deliverance from sins, sickness, and troubles of any kind throughout our life. Not only that, but 2nd Peter 1:3 tells us that, *"According (to) his divine power (He) hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,"*

This means the pardon and cleansing of sin and the fulness of God's Spirit within. This includes our peace, protection, finances, as well as our health. To prove that to "ask according to His will" does not restrict us to certain requests, it is written in 1 John 5:15, *"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."* This promise gives us the right to have our prayers answered for righteousness, peace, health, financial supplies, and everything else that we could desire.

When we ask according to His will, we are praying in Jesus' Name, as directed in John 16:23, *"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."* This verse tells us that God hears and answers every prayer we offer in the Name of Jesus. That is something that we must be very positive about, as all our blessings and our happiness depends upon this step of faith and accepting God's bare Word as sufficient evidence that our prayers have been heard and answered.

This 'step of faith' can also be expressed as a leap in the dark, because by sight and feeling, we have no positive knowledge that our prayer has been heard and answered. It is only by accepting God's bare Word alone that we can start out and act the same as if we both saw and felt the answer take place.

This 'leap in the dark' when taken on dependence on God's power alone, or on the authority of His Word, always finds solid ground beneath our feet. But it must be a 'leap in the dark'. We are to step out without the least knowledge that we are delivered and accept God's Word alone that tells us that we have our victory.

Anyone who will make a choice like that has taken a most valuable and important attitude toward God that anyone could possibly take. One that will open the entire storehouse of Heaven to give them everything that they need and desire for time and eternity.

The great spiritual blessing that comes with this step of faith, is great indeed, but there is another step that is just as important and that concerns the death of self, that wedge that Satan uses to get his way in and take control of one through accepting his word instead of accepting God's Word and plan.

When we stop to think about the deadly work that 'self' did by laying aside God's Word and accepting Satan's lies, we would take the opposite attitude, reject the lies of Satan, and it will remove every trouble and eliminate the 'self-life' and restore us to the blessings of the Garden of Eden. The door is wide open, but it must be taken by that step of faith. That is what Paul meant when he said in Romans 5:2, "*By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*"

This 'step of faith' brings about the destruction of the 'self-life'. Just as the Centurion, in the 8th chapter of Matthew. He was determined to accept Jesus' words as sufficient evidence that his servant would be healed. Satan was just as busy in Bible times as he is today. No doubt, he tried to put his lies into the mind of the Centurion, just as he does to us today, but the Centurion made a final choice that whatever God's Son would say, that would be all that he wanted to hear.

Matthew 8:5-8, "*And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*" Jesus immediately said, "I will come and heal him." Then the Centurion answered and said, "*Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*"

May God impress that on our minds and help us to take that same attitude, which is so valuable.

"Speak the word only" and I will be positive, dead sure that my prayer is heard and answered. The Centurion was as positive that his servant was healed as if he saw Jesus standing over his servant and rebuke Satan in that disease and restore him to perfect health. "Your Word is all I need" is what he meant.

That, we need to take to heart. It would solve all our problems, break Satan's power in making our lives unhappy and unpleasant, spiritually, physically, and in every other way.

In Romans 10:8 it tells us, "*But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*" We do not believe it to make it so; we are to believe it because it is so, and our believing lets the deliverance in.

Notice the attitude that the Centurion had. He was very fond of his servant and wanted him healed, but he was willing to risk that life on the bare Word of Jesus Christ, in spite of all the doubts and fears that Satan had brought to his mind. He just placed his faith on that Word and wanted that more than to have Jesus come down in person and heal him.

When Jesus heard it, He marveled. How delighted and pleased He was, and what tribute He paid to that man. He said, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." He meant that He had not found faith like that anywhere, not even in Israel.

Then He said something that revealed the spiritual value and the great importance of laying aside Satan's word and all sight and feeling, and accept the bare, plain Word of God as all sufficient evidence that we are delivered, and to act accordingly, which is so important. We can't go around with a long sad face, wondering why we don't have the victory. We should be saying, "Praise God I am delivered, Thy Word is enough for me. I am a righteous, happy and perfectly well person."

As we put our words into action, God will back us up by His Divine power and fulfill all that the Blood of Christ on Calvary's Cross has purchased for us. Then Jesus said in Matthew 8:11, "*And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*"

By saying that, Jesus meant that we would have to take the same attitude that the Centurion took, if we ever expect to gain Eternal Life

Verse 12, "*But the children of the kingdom,*" those who profess to be Christians and who fail to take such an attitude, "*shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

The coming of Jesus is very near, and the 'Lake of Fire' is too dreadful to think about, but the glories of Heaven are so wonderful beyond words to describe. But it takes a real death of the 'self-life' and a full enthronement of the Christ-life in us to be ready for Eternal Life.

We cannot afford to swerve, by the slightest margin, away from God's Word and plan, nor allow the slightest questionable thing to stand between us and our preparation for Heaven. Satan has many plans and schemes to allure anyone from following God's plan in the fullest. He tries to get our minds on things of this life, many activities that could become habit forming and then no time left for God's plan for our lives here in preparation for Eternal Life.

Satan is out to get as many as he can. We have to be alert, for the times are evil and the day is fast approaching. 1st Corinthians 9:24-26 tells us how to run this race.

"*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.*"

We need to be sincere in running this race successfully, that we may cross that finish line and hear the words of our Savior, "**Well done thou good and faithful servant.**"



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