

GOD GIVES BELIEVERS POWER TO MEET THINGS RIGHT—II

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With the subject of this message being about the power to meet things right, it will emphasize that the way we meet things, depends altogether on that power by which we meet them. If God's power is controlling us, we will always meet things Scripturally, but if His power is not fully controlling us, then our meeting things in God's way will be limited. God has already planned that we are to have His power, which will enable us to meet everything right according to His Word. He never asks us to meet anything in our own strength, and as long as we attempt to meet things in our own strength, we will fail to that extent in our Christian life and walk.

God's plan has always been for us to meet things in His strength. He has provided and placed His entire power at our service, to enable us to meet every kind of trouble and trial in the true Scriptural way, and the importance of meeting all things in our life in accordance with His will, cannot be overstated. If we are not meeting things in God's way, and instead, are meeting them in the old 'human nature' way, we would not be ready to meet the Lord if He should return suddenly (and we would spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire). That is too terrible even to think about, let alone to go there.

Jesus told the church at Laodicea that His power was knocking at their door. He told them that they were lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, also that, "I would thou were cold or hot." (Reve.3:15) "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." (Vs.16) [A solemn reminder from our Savior, that we cannot afford to go half-way with our commitment to God, for as He told them, "I will spew thee out of my mouth."]

Jesus then reminded those members of how willing to forgive He really is, and of how merciful and compassionate He is; (in saying, vs.19), "All whom I hold dear, I reprove and chastise; therefore be in earnest and 'repent'."

He then gave them a wonderful message of encouragement (Vs.20) "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door", (meaning, of course the door of 'our heart'), "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

A previous message on this subject of how we are required (and must as true believers), meet other people and circumstances right in God's sight, to be saved from perishing and going to the Lake of Fire with rebellion and pride in our heart. That message left off with a written account from the Bible of the circumstances of how and when David was on his way to avenge a wrong done to him, and so, to kill all the people on Nabal's farm. Therefore, he was just as much on the path to Hell as Judas was (when on his way to betray Jesus Christ), but God in His mercy allowed a circumstance that gave David a precious opportunity to repent, and get on the right path to Life!

Therefore, God (who knows each one of us via our heart), knew that David was honest and wanted to fully surrender, so in God's mercy and compassion He allowed that circumstance to take place which exposed that rebellion hidden in David's heart, by having Nabal to write that uncharitable letter to David. That was the best letter he ever received! The most valuable one that was ever penned to David in his entire life, .. to have somebody telling him, "Who is David?" "Who is the son of Jesse?" It was written in just the language that was needed to bring out the hidden rebellion (hidden pride) in David's heart. That hidden pride and rebellion became evident very quickly, for as soon as he received it, David and his men started off to kill Nabal and all those on his farm; but Abigail, Nabal's wife, heard of how her husband treated David and she started out to take him large quantities of food, etc. (The Bible says) "Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys." (And while on her way she met David.)

"And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, lighted off the donkey, and fell before David facedown, and bowed herself to the ground, and fell at his feet, and said, "Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Beliel, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I 'thine handmaid' saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst} send.

"Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord liveth and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

"And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offense of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the Lord shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid." (1 Sam.25:18, 23-26,30,31).

[Only the Lord could have inspired Abigail with those words), and it was a wonderful answer that David gave to Abigail. It shows each one of us, just the kind of humble position we are to take when our 'hidden rebellion' (and 'hidden pride' is uncovered and revealed to us), and, that 'humble position' would be one of immediate repentance in our heart and mind.]

(Vs 32,33) "And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice, and, blessed be thou which has kept me this day from 'coming to shed blood', and from avenging myself with mine own hand."

(In other words David was saying) 'If you had not come I would have rebelled and that rebellion would have born fruit, and would have done untold spiritual damage to me. David settled it right

then and there that he did not care what anybody said or did, to him, that he would never say one word or do one thing to deliver or relieve himself, apart from the power of God. (His repentance was sincere and final).

[The truth is, if Saul had not persecuted David, David would not have been tested and tried (and could have surely landed in the Pit). That persecution, those things that Saul said and did to him were surely humanly wrong and unjust, but divinely speaking they were just the things he needed to have to happen in his life. When Nabal sent such an ungrateful letter to David, the hidden rebellion in David's heart (to avenge wrongs done to him), was then exposed and brought out. He had told every one of his men to gird on his sword, and then started out to avenge himself.]

A short time after David had humbly repented of his intention to kill Nabal and his men, David was brought to stand at the head of his persecutor, King Saul, (who was determined to take David's life), and one of his strong men, Abishai, was there along with David. God permitted that stage to be set exactly as it would need to be set for David to be tested, to see if there was still any hidden pride and rebellion left in his heart. David had prayed and asked God in Psalm 139:23, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts."

God was doing just that for David, and He does it with every one of us (who want God to prepare us for Eternity), in order to set the stage for the sincerity of 'our commitment to God' to 'be tested'. It is not the fault of those people who say and do things to displease us; but it is the hidden rebellion in our heart, (and these things are permitted to take place in our life to bring that out) (so that we can repent and be saved from the Lake of Fire). [God in His mercy, compassion and love for us, does not want any one soul to perish, but for all to come to a true repentance]. (2 Pet.3:9).

The attacks that we sometimes suffer in our body, are not caused by the weather or other natural things, primarily; but they are the result of a lack in our spiritual condition and lack of full surrender and trust in God.

And, it is the same with us with our financial battles; there is some rebellion in our heart against God's financial plan for us and in the meeting of our financial battles in God's way. That is the cause of every financial battle we ever had. Are we depending on a weekly paycheck or some source of laid-up source of money (from the Government or a savings account)?, and maybe not even realizing it! These battles which God uses to expose our true spiritual condition, are the best and most profitable things that could ever happen to us.

When David and Abishai reached Saul's camp, everybody (even Saul and his bodyguard) were asleep. God was determined to give the acid test to David's surrender. Abishai then said to David: "God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand." (1st Samuel 26:8).

He even emphasized "the Lord". Saying "The Lord" has placed your enemy into thine hand this day." "The lord" has done it!" (We need to take notice of how the devil tried to reach David, and used

a friend to do that, somebody who would lay down his life for David. [How many times has the devil used a friend of ours to entice us to make a wrong decision, and to do something wrong and outside of God' Word and His Will for us? (possibly many times!)]

Abishai then said to David; "Therefore let me smite him I pray thee, with a spear even to the earth at once and I will not smite him the second time."

At that point, all that stood between David and the throne of Israel, and, between everything he could need and desire in this life, could have been removed, via him just saying "Yes". It is one thing that we surrender; but then to see your 'human way of deliverance' 'being handed right to you on a gold platter', is quite a different thing. But, that is allowed just to test our sincerity and the completeness of our surrender of 'self-life'. David had to prove the sincerity of 'his surrender', and 'we will have to prove ours'.

People will say and do things to us, things will happen, and battles will come, until there is nothing that will ever make us disobey God's Word or His plans. When that point is reached, our troubles are ended, our diseases are healed, our enemies are at peace with us, we will have peace within and without, and things will go to suit us.

David's answer to Abishai was: "Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" David said further, "As the Lord liveth, the Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go." (Vs.9-11).

That humble answer from David was witness to his desire to have made a complete and total surrender of his self-will, to instead have God's Will done in his life, and by which he would show mercy to enemies who had cursed him (like Shimei did), or, had tried to take David's life. (Such a final decision on David's part, brought an end to Saul's persecution, and a straight path was opened for David to get the throne. Before that test David did not know that he was going on the wrong path; but as the result of having the last bit of hidden rebellion taken out, he entered the straight and narrow road that leads to life eternal. This is what God is doing for you and I, when our surrender to meet things in His way is a final decision and surrender to God's way and plan for meeting things in our life. (1st. John, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." (meaning, that he ought to meet things even as Christ met them). Then we always have that encouraging passage of Scripture in Philippians chapter 2, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation,".

(Rom.6:1-2) "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace (meaning, God's mercy to us may be the greater, or) may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any

longer therein?" [Dead-to-sin because of the cleansing power of Jesus' shed Blood after we have sincerely repented.) THAT IS THE POINT!" [and because of that repentance God gives us a power to meet things in His way.] (vs.3-4) "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk (or live) in newness of life." The very same power that raised Christ from the dead, is the same power with which we are to meet things. It is the very power that enabled Christ to meet things while He was here on earth, and the power that we are to rely on and to meet the devil with, to overcome trial (via that same power provided by God, and to "walk in newness of life.") It is the only possible way that we can overcome.

When we truly believe that we are cleansed and freed by the power of Jesus' shed Blood, we can then see ourselves as overcomers as God's Word tells us that we should see ourselves, and as being controlled by that power of God which will enable us to 'meet things right in accordance with God's Word and His Will for us. (Gal.2:20-21) "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me; and the life which I now live in the body I live through faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up to death on my behalf. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if acquittal from guilt is obtainable through the Law", (or efforts of self-life) "then Christ has died in vain." [It is by God's power that we are to meet things, and meet our tests within His Will, and so, 'make progress toward our Eternal Life!]

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

300R SOME MAIN POINTS:

1 .. The spiritual guidance needed for us to make Scriptural decisions, along with the power for us to resist Satan and the trials and temptations that he devises, has already been provided for us by the Promises of God. So, we are told in God's Word, that "happy is the man who goes through his trials successfully." (because God gives us the power to resist Satan's temptations and snares to defeat us on our pathway to Salvation.)

1 .. Everything must come through God in a true Christian's life, and Bible passages reveal that God allows things to take place to test us and our faith, to see how we will meet them (because how we do meet those circumstances will indicate who we are trusting in). It is how God provides opportunity for us to be convicted, come to repentance, and be saved from perishing with pride and rebellion in our heart.
