

# GOD'S DEALING WITH US

S84A 0115 23P

We must never lose sight of the fact that the Holy Spirit is always present and is always ready to work when He finds a heart that is willing to accept God's dealing with us, to walk in the light, and continue in the truth, that is when it becomes possible for Him to perfect His work.

One important principle would be humility, which means a willingness to believe God's Word exactly as it reads. Humility is a very simple thing; it is a willingness to believe what God's Word says. Secondly, to endure, without a murmur or complaint whatever trial or temptation we may be called upon to meet. God says He gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud, that is people who are not willing to believe unless they see; not willing to endure without complaining and murmuring, blaming everything and everybody but themselves for their trouble.

God resists the proud. The only way He resists them is that He cannot possibly help them while they are in that spirit. The resistance they receive is really from Satan. They receive no help from God, but a hindrance from Satan. That is what it means for the proud to be resisted. The meek, or humble, to have grace means that God can work and make it easy and successful in our dealing with Him, and all that concerns our Christian life, if we keep ourselves clothed with humility.

It is also written that if we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He will exalt us in due season. This exaltation in due time means great victory for our entire life and really means that after we have humbled ourselves to this extent; that if we could get victory and deliverance in any way apart from God's Will or way, we would not take it; even if we are threatened with death. That is the real attribute of humility.

It is the same principle as the Hebrew children getting their deliverance from the fiery furnace. There was a humanly possible way, which was by bending their backs. It would not have cost them anything, nor caused them any trouble whatever. But they would not take their deliverance in any other way but a fiery furnace seven times heated, because that was God's way of deliverance, although it seemed like certain death. They could make such a decision because they had graduated in the school of humility. God's grace will be sufficient for us when we have graduated in the same school.

True humility always puts the blame on ourselves and justifies God. An illustration between humility and a proud spirit would be the example of the two thieves on the cross. The one said, *"If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."* With his carnal mind, he could not see the things of God; he had a proud, rebellious spirit. The other thief rebuked him saying; *"Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deed; but this man hath done nothing amiss."* (Luke 23: 40)

That was true humility. (Verses 42-43) *"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."* You can see the value of humility. God's loving grace came to that man who was willing to humble himself.

The next principle of successful dealing with God is steadfastness. This is such a remarkable principle of success and has to do, not only with our entire life, but in every trial, there is no principle more valuable than to hold steadfast, as Satan would like to bring up many things to discourage us. Satan will use his efforts and works in trying to defeat us and discourage us. It is necessary for us to make our final decision to hold steadfast. The possibility of us turning back is all that Satan needs to get in.

Satan's power is done, when a final decision is made to go God's way. Such a step in the Christian life will bring our troubles down to a minimum; God's power can then work speedily; and we will find Satan's efforts at every turn of the road turned into stepping stones to blessing, greater knowledge of God, greater power and enlargement than we could have dreamed of. When we have settled it to go God's way and meet things in His way and follow just what He says, we will have great success in dealing with Him.

You will notice how successful people were in the Bible when they went God's way. Now Job was just the opposite. He believed he knew better than God; that God was wrong, and he was right; he was righteous and God unrighteous.

That was some position for a man to take. He was determined to hold on to his ideas; he was steadfast, but in the wrong direction. However, he let go after a while; and God never forsook him. Job is held up as one of the most valuable examples in steadfastness by James.

If we have decided to go through and have settled things and are determined not to give up whatever Satan may do, our progress will be rapid and our success in dealing with God greater than ever before; we will experience greater victories and our growth and development in the knowledge of God will be rapid indeed.

James 5:7-11, *“Be patient therefore brethren, unto the coming of the Lord, Beloved, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another brethren, lest ye be condemned; behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering and affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”*

Look at the endurance of Joseph, some people cannot stand it with one person in the home against them. Joseph had ten brethren, who would not speak a peaceable word to him, right in his own home. These brethren sold him into slavery, after which he found himself in the home of a bad woman and because of his integrity was cast into prison, not knowing whether he would ever get out again. However, as he held steady and learned his final lesson of depending wholly and absolutely on God for his deliverance, he was exalted to the throne of Egypt.

Our hope of heaven depends on our endurance. This is brought out clearly in Hebrews 10:35-36, *“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”*

Many, after they have met God's conditions, say; "We have met every condition and are now waiting for the answer." This verse does not mean that we are to wait for our deliverances from God; we are to receive them the moment the conditions are met. No one in the Bible had to wait for spiritual or physical deliverance. We are to receive our deliverance in the present moment also.

*“That after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”* This text really means: “that ye might receive the promise of being taken up and entering into the marriage supper of the Lamb, with Jesus Christ.

Verse 37, *“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith;”* (That means: my righteous ones must continue to hold steadfast in the faith.)

Hebrews 10:38-39, *“Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”* If we hold steadfast to the very end, we shall go up with Jesus when He comes. That is the thought the Apostle is trying to bring out.

In James 1: 12 we have a further thought. *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:”* (or the person who holds steadfast and goes through in God's way) *“for when he is tried”* (when he has met his many and various trials in God's way; when he has stood the test and proven faithful) *“he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*

Take the poor widow and the unjust judge as an example, she was steadfast in claiming that deliverance, she refused to give up, this attitude brought her one hundred per cent victory. When we are as determined in our attitude as this poor widow we will not turn away or draw back for anything we might be seeking. God has the victory, one hundred per cent of victory for us and it is our right to have it. If we hold steadfast in our claim and refuse to take back our request, God will bring us to the place of victory.

It is written in Matthew 12:20, *“A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.”*

Let us consider that Syrophenician woman in the 15th chapter of Matthew, verses 21-28. This poor woman had a daughter oppressed with an evil spirit, a real torment from Satan. That mother came to Jesus saying, *“Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.”*

That woman had probably never heard a full Gospel message; she had no Bible, but she had heard of Jesus and came to Him asking Him to have mercy upon her and heal her daughter. Jesus answered her not a word. Notice the contrast here; we have had the promise of the answer to our prayers for hundreds of years. She had no promise, no assurance that God would ever hear her at all, but she was determined.

We have the light and experience of what Jesus has done for us. We know God never refused to heal anyone. We have read how the little lamb down in Egypt provided such a wonderful deliverance for the Israelites. Every bond was unloosed, every cord which bound them to Egypt was cut. Just think how much more we have than that poor woman. No wonder God tells us in His word that we should humble ourselves.

We have all these wonderful promises in the New Testament, which this poor woman did not have. However, she kept on calling; she was steadfast. The disciples desired Jesus to send her away, because she was crying after them. They thought He was not going to pay any attention to her. Then He answered and said; *"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

Just think what that must have meant to that poor woman with such a burden on her heart. It was not a lie of Satan, saying that the days of miracles are over, but it was an answer direct from the lips of Jesus Christ Himself. Still, she cried; *"Lord, help me."* Just consider her steadfastness. This example takes away any excuse from any individual.

Then Jesus answered and said, *"It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs."* I did not come to heal your daughter; it would not be right, as it would be exactly like taking the children's bread and feeding it to the dogs. No promise whatever, just an abrupt rejection, from the lips of God Himself in the person of His Son.

She replied: *"Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."* She would not take "no" for an answer, just holding steadfast to the end.

Then Jesus answered and said to her, *"O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt."* You may have exactly what you desire; one hundred per cent of victory for your daughter. She went home and found her daughter perfectly delivered.

We have the entire Bible; with exceeding great and precious promises and they all have "YES" to them and God says whatever we ask the Father, in Jesus' name. He will grant us until our joy is full. That is a Word which cannot be broken; God cannot change His mind; He will make that promise good.

John 16: 23, 24, *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto, have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."* Mark 11: 24, *"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Jesus gave this woman these two promises, when He said; "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt." In our battles we start right in where this woman left off; the promises she received at the end of her dealings with Jesus Christ we have the privilege of receiving at the very beginning. He tells us the work is done. We do not have to bother what is said about the children's bread being given to the dogs; we are God's own true children.

Romans 8: 16-17, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ";* These promises bring to us everything we need and desire in this life. May God help us to accept it just as this woman did.

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*\*Be on our free mailing list—contact:*

PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcqchurch.org](mailto:info@fcqchurch.org)

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