

The Foundation of Faith

PART 1

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The proper foundation of our faith will bring answers to prayer at once. Satan's object is to always cause us to get God's plan misplaced, out of line; just to apply God's plan in a different way from what He really intended. Most people think the foundation of their hopes of receiving deliverance is the amount of faith they have.

A person once said—"I had lots of faith, and I prayed." They thought because they had faith, that would bring an answer to their prayer; they based their hopes on what THEY seemed to have as the reason why God should answer their prayer. That is no foundation for faith. Some believe the more we think a thing is true, even if it is untrue, our thoughts will make it true, and vice versa.

In the Truth of God, our faith does not act like that, nor is it any foundation for our deliverance. If we had all the faith there ever has been in the world, it would not induce God to give us a deliverance of any kind. Faith is a very small and insignificant part of this salvation, and, as we have said, has no merits at all of its own; it is only the hand by which we take from God.

One may want to count, as a reason for receiving an increase in wages, the fact of having a hand to reach out to receive that increase. That would be no reason at all, it would be the kind of work they did during the week which would determine the increase, and not the act of reaching out a hand for the money.

It is foolish to think because we have faith, that is a foundation for having our prayers answered. It is not the foundation at all, and no reason why God

should answer our prayers. All the faith in the world would not cause God to answer us.

The pastor received a letter from a sister, who had a sick brother, and she said when she prayed for him, she felt an assurance that he was going to be healed. She felt an assurance of faith, and because of that feeling, she was sure her brother would be healed; because of that special revelation; something she saw in herself, which was no reason why God would heal her brother. Nowhere in the Bible do we read that because we feel something is going to be accomplished, it is to be done. Because we have a feeling of assurance in ourselves, is no foundation of faith. Now that woman based her hopes of full deliverance for her brother on what she felt about it, when she prayed; she based her hopes of deliverance upon a false foundation.

She said, "When I went to see my brother, he was worse, not better, and has continually grown worse, and my faith is shattered."

It was no wonder it was shattered, because if you build a house on ice, it may hold well during cold winter weather, but when the July sun began to shine upon it, the ice would melt and your house would tumble down.

You would say—"I had a solid foundation, and the house was built well, but it has fallen; I do not understand it."

That is just as sensible an argument as this woman had, because she felt the assurance when she prayed, it was going to be done. That is no foundation of faith; we never read that in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, that because someone feels they are going to have their prayers answered the deliverance will be wrought.

God has foundations for faith. The first is the work of His Son on the Cross; Isaiah 53: 4-6; that is the foundation and beginning of all faith, and when we base our hopes and expectations of answered prayer on that work on the Cross something is going to move in our favor and direction.

When you go to purchase goods, you do not base your faith on getting those goods as a foundation, on what you feel about it, how much faith you have in the dealer, or anything of that kind; you base your hopes of receiving those goods on the amount of money you have.

Our deliverances from God—pardon and cleansing from sin, healing of disease, perfect health and protection for these bodies, and our supply of every other need and desire has been purchased and paid for with the Blood of Jesus Christ; that is the reason God gives us these things, not because of how we feel about it, not because of anything about us, or in us; but, simply because that price has been paid.

You go to the store; you have no confidence to take any of the goods which have not been paid for; if you would, you could be arrested. If, however, you paid for those goods and they were on the counter, and the salesman said, "Here are your goods," you would have perfect confidence to take them and go home.

The Blood of Jesus Christ has purchased and paid for and caused to be wrapped up and on Heaven's counter in front of us, all the pardon, cleansing, healing, etc., that we need for time and eternity; and that is the reason the Bible says—*"Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."* (Rev.22:17) That includes all the spiritual, physical, and other blessings needed and desired.

When we go to God, we must never lose sight of that great work on the Cross. It was a tremendous price which He paid; the Son of God lived in great glory and abundance of peace, happiness and joy; had all power and authority in Heaven and on earth and He came down to this earth and took the form of a slave, mingled with common and poor people; then was arrested, falsely accused; falsely convicted; then a cross was laid on the ground and cruel, wicked soldiers, without any heart, or humanity about them, took those hands and feet and drove spikes through them, and then they placed

that Cross into the ground, just like they would a pole for wires along the streets.

Jesus hung alive for six hours on that Cross, slowly bleeding and suffering to death—a horrible death and between two thieves; He, the Son of God, Who never committed a crime. Just for one reason—that you and I might be delivered from the power of sin and Satan, from the power of disease and trouble of every kind and might never have any trouble to bear.

When we lay that price aside, lay that great work aside and found our hopes of deliverances on some peculiarity—some feeling—we make a terrible mistake, a most serious mistake, because it will rob us of any deliverance that God could give us.

We should always get our eyes on the Blood, whether in type or reality, and there will be an instantaneous deliverance from every trouble we are in; sins will immediately be pardoned and cleansed, diseases instantly healed, troubles disappear instantly.

You take those bitten ones in the desert; they were dying with a deadly serpent's bite and came to Moses; saying— "We have sinned, pray to the Lord for us, that He will take away these fiery serpents from us."

Moses prayed and the Lord told him to make a serpent of brass and hang it on a pole and place the pole into the ground and it should come to pass that everyone that was bitten by the serpent, as they beheld that serpent of brass would live; that meant they were to be pardoned of that sin and rebellion, which brought that deadly disease, and destruction among them; that deadly bite which meant certain death.

There was absolutely no hope of life for them; all that condition would be removed instantly, and it turned out exactly as God promised. That serpent hanging on the pole was a type of Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross bearing all our sins, our diseases, and our troubles—everything which could

mar our peace. The moment these people saw that, just as we see our money has paid for the goods we purchased, they had perfect confidence to rise up in health and peace. They had a real foundation for their faith.

The two men going to Emmaus were weighed down with trouble. It was after the resurrection and they had not known that Jesus had risen from the dead, He was walking beside them, and overheard their speech and their sorrow, and He asked them what those things were of which they were talking?

They began to tell Him the story of the dreadful happenings in Jerusalem about Jesus, who had been murdered, and now it was three days since, and His body had also disappeared.

He began to open their minds to those Scriptures, which predicted these happenings, and what the cross of Jesus Christ meant. Their testimony was this: While He talked with them and unfolded the plan of redemption, the great work on the Cross, their troubles and burdens disappeared. Why? Because our chastisement was upon Him on the Cross.

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But 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." (Isaiah 53:4-6)

"And they said one to another, 'Did not our heart burn with in us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?'" (Luke 24:32)

Did not our troubles disappear? They became happy simply because that broken body and shed Blood had paid the price for their deliverance from trouble.

The same principle is Involved in the case of that man in the streets of Lystra. Paul told him the story of the Cross, Jesus Christ crucified. What did

that mean? That all our sins, sorrows, and diseases were borne there and we were FREE. That man was a cripple from his birth, had never walked a step. He sat there and heard the story and BELIEVED. The moment Paul saw that, he said: "You are well, get up and walk."

He rose immediately and leaped and walked. Why? Because he saw and accepted, as a foundation for the faith he arose with, that work on the Cross, and not the feeling in himself; nor did he consider the great faith he had; but simply what Jesus Christ had done on the Cross.

The next foundation of faith is of equal value with the Blood—the Word of God. Many people lay aside the promises of God. They were given to use and obey just as they are given in God's Word. We are partakers of all the Blood provided through the Word, which is the same means through which we receive from men—through a word, so we receive from God through His written Word.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature." (2nd Peter 1:4)

People often lay aside the promises and say—"Lord, have mercy and help me." That is no promise. We should take a promise which applies exactly to our condition. The Bible tells us what we are to do and how we are to pray, and also tells us specifically what God will do in answer to that prayer. The very moment we pray as a promise directs and believe it just the same as if we had the deliverance, we shall receive what we have asked for.



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