

The Foundation of Faith

(LESSON 2) PART 3

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"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

This is Isaiah 53: 4-6 just in different language, in a more concrete form; all trouble and disease gone. This is what Paul meant when he said— *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5 :17)

That word creature means "creation". It means that in every way all the old things have passed away and there is a new peace and spiritual life, new health and protection, new financial blessing- new life in every way.

"Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, and our pains he hath carried them." (Isaiah 53:4 YLT)

What does that mean? That we are dead indeed unto sickness, pains, and aches, and are to see ourselves perfectly well, just through the Blood which was shed on the Cross.

"The chastisement of our Peace was upon Him;" —this means that we are to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin, through God's Word alone and then His power will come in and make it real. We are to count ourselves dead indeed unto sin. Why? Because 2000 years ago all our sins, troubles, and diseases were borne on the Cross, and we do not have to bear them any longer.

"All of us like sheep have wandered, Each to his own way we have turned, And Jehovah hath caused to meet on him the punishment of us all." (Verse 6)

All our sins were laid on Him; in other words, right now the Blood of Jesus Christ has made, and the Word of God says we are, pardoned and cleansed, spirit filled, perfectly well people, and have perfect peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Satan comes and says— "You are not pardoned and cleansed, you are not perfectly well, etc." Whose word are we accepting, what position are we taking; that we are a new creation in Christ Jesus, that we are dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus; or that we are living unto self, that we are just as sick in body as ever?

We must take the stand that we are dead indeed unto sin, dead indeed unto trouble, dead indeed unto sickness and disease and every evil thing and living unto God in Christ Jesus, in perfect victory along every line. That is where the Blood places us; and if we believe it, it will become a reality; not that our faith makes it real, but because it is a reality whether we believe it or not. May God open our eyes to see this wonderful truth.

"And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the Lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." (Luke 5:1-4)

The whole story of our deliverance is right here. This is the door out of all trouble, all sickness, all sorrow, all poverty you ever had, or ever will have; the door out and only one step at that, just one step out, but that must be a step of FAITH, by believing just the Word which tells you what the Blood has done, which is an accomplished fact; that lets the deliverance in.

Our believing does not accomplish one thing, it only lets in what has already been accomplished. God brings it to our door and is knocking to ask us to take in perfect pardon and cleansing, perfect health, and everything that we need and desire for our spiritual life and fulness of blessing, which is the gift of God in Christ Jesus.

"And let down your nets for a draught." In other words, Jesus said, "There are plenty of fish in that stream." Now let us see whether that was true or not. These men had to decide whether it was or not. "Are there plenty of fish in that stream;

this man—the Son of God—says there are fish there, just a little way out.”

Peter weighed the matter, considering his own experience, what he could see and feel, all human evidence; then the Word of God. He made a choice. It makes all the difference in the world what we accept—sight or feeling, or the Word of the ever-living God. What are you accepting today as evidence, what you see and feel, your miserable experience, what the devil continually suggests; or are you willing to take what the Blood says has been done for you? This is what faces us today. As long as we accept the suggestions and evidence of Satan, all that God ever did cannot help us.

Jesus Christ said there were fish in that stream; was it a fact, or not?

“And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”

How we toil to believe, how we toil to meet conditions, how we toil all night and take nothing. How we try to be good and try to get well and try to meet conditions, how we long for knowledge of God and for rest.

“Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing.”

Just where have we toiled all night and taken nothing? Where is the trouble? We have not believed.

“For we which have believed do enter into rest.”

“Nevertheless”—what a plank from defeat to victory! That old, important plank of “nevertheless,” it is certainly an important board, better than mahogany, oak, etc. “Nevertheless,” my! what a plank, which severs us from sin, self, sorrow, sickness, Satan, and his works. As we plant our feet on that plank and go over, there will be no more toiling all night and taking nothing. Which end of the plank are you on? “Nevertheless” is just one step out, which is the Bible way.

Then let down the net and you will see the fish (deliverance and blessing). Peter figured this way: Jesus said there were fish in the stream, and he was going to believe it and prove to his own satisfaction that He told the truth. The Word of God says every time you pray for healing that you

are perfectly well. Are you still going to toil all night and take nothing? Are you going to put in your time washing nets, mending nets? Are you still going to remain on the plank, instead of launching out into the deep and letting down the net, where the power of God is?

“Nevertheless, I will let down the net and allow Thee to cause me to lead a victorious life; I am trying in my own strength. I let down the net and count myself dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God in Christ Jesus. I have tried mighty hard to believe for the healing of this body; I have prayed and prayed for my husband, children, and home; I had everybody else pray for my healing but have received no answer.”

The pastor continued, “I am glad to say that the First-Century Gospel Church cannot heal anyone. The Blood of Jesus Christ is the only healing power and merit.” When the Israelites were bitten with those poisonous serpents, God commanded, Moses to hang a brazen serpent on a pole, a type of Jesus Christ, whose Blood had pardoned their sins, removed their sorrows, and healed their diseases. “I have tried mighty hard, but here goes, I am going to cross the plank of ‘nevertheless,’ let down the net and launch out into the deep.”

We had a sister one time, who had to hold on to chairs and table in order to walk around the house, and always had to pull herself up by holding the table or something. She was lying on the couch in the parlor, and someone rang the door bell. She heard the ring but thought someone in the house would answer it.

No one else came to answer, and it rang the second time more violently. Without thinking what she was doing, she arose, walked to the door, and let them in. When she turned, she thought to herself, “What have I been doing?” As she thought about it, the whole thing turned and came back on her body. The Lord wanted to prove to her that her body was really healed. So, as we believe the Word, it becomes a reality.

The pastor continued, “It was the same with one of my relatives. He would not set the Delaware River afire with his faith. He had what the world calls rheumatism for about ten days and was crawling to work. To look at him you would think he was only working to save funeral expenses and looked as if he did not have a friend

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