

The Foundation of Faith

(LESSON 3) PART 2

S026 25 1026P

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.” (1 Peter 1:6)

Weighed down with burdens and many and various kinds of trials.

(7) “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

That is how we are to meet our trials, to settle it, finally and forever, that we are going through with God, whether it be a spiritual, a physical, or financial battle.

Meeting temptation is the thing which counts. If we go through in God's way, it will add and increase and enlarge our faith. If we hedge and compromise and try to make a human way of escape, Satan will furnish plenty of them. If we are truly sorry for our past attitude and unbelief and desire to get to the end of it and desire to turn to God; if we desire to get past the last station (death), Satan will throw us a rope of escape of some kind, which we must be careful not to accept under any circumstances. He, Satan, will tell us not to accept the deliverance just in the present but to wait until the next day, or week. Or he, Satan, will send some neighbor with a medicine which is a new discovery guaranteed to cure anything from a pin scratch to cancer in the last stages. Many people fall for that and are defeated.

Beloved, we must settle it that we would rather die than use the slightest thing to help ourselves out of whatever difficulty we may be in; that we will trust God no matter what it may cost; then God can help us, and we will receive our deliverance, and our faith will grow in leaps and bounds.

Suppose you are trusting God to cast Satan out of your home and to keep him out. Well, Satan looks into that heart of yours, and he sees that you do not mean business, that you are just playing at this, just experimenting. Johnnie seemed to be three times as bad as usual, and Mary was more

disobedient than ever. The whole thing was a test of your faith and Satan working to get your eyes off the Lord and His Word.

“I told you the plan would not work out. I tried and believed and did everything they told me, and my children were worse than ever.”

Beloved, the devil has a joyful celebration in hell because of the defeat you have met with. Why? Because you allowed yourself to be fooled by him. God could not raise a finger toward helping you. Unless you place that house and family definitely into God's hands to be changed and trust Him alone and keep your eyes on the Word, Satan will defeat you in forty-eight seconds, it will not require forty-eight hours. Whether we are trusting God to change our husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, neighbors, or anyone else, we must make a settlement to go through with God before He can work in our behalf.

We have two examples of how this works out. By the way, they are financial examples and teach us how to meet financial trials right. It is really remarkable; you would not think that life or death, Heaven or hell were involved in the financial trials. People may ridicule us for getting into God's Scriptural plan for healing and financial affairs, but it is a very important question when we consider that our eternal life depends on our attitude to the Word of God along these lines as well as others. People are disobeying God's Word along every line because they are being deceived and fooled by the teaching of the denominational churches. They are disobeying the Word in so many ways. They accept the kind of sweet morality of the average church, especially the fact of God going to take them to Heaven when they die; but they know nothing about obedience to the Word of God.

Why? Because Jesus said: *“But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1:22)*

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:4)

This means financial commands, commands for the home-life, for our spiritual affairs, in dealing with our children, etc.

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.” (Ephesians 5:25)

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22)

It is just as much sin to manage and control your home-life, or financial life and physical life as it is to go out as a highway robber and steal somebody's money. The God Who wrote “Thou shalt not steal,” also gave these other commands for the same strict obedience by His people. Our trouble today is that the wife, the husband, the children, the parents all take different attitudes from what they should take, no one takes their proper place; hence, God is unable to work for us. One disobedience is just exactly the same as another. When anyone steals anything, we think it is a dreadful sin; but should those same people disobey God's Word physically or financially it would not be considered a sin, but rather a virtue. That is some perversion, some terribly wrong understanding we have of the Word of God. Sin is a disobedience of God's Word., whether it be in one thing or another, it makes no difference in God's sight. You will hear some people saying, “I never told a lie; I never said a cross word to my wife; I never took my boy by the collar and sent him to bed without supper.” However, all the while they have been disobeying God in their financial affairs.

We desire to call your attention to the widow of Zarephath as an example of meeting a financial battle right. **(1 Kings 17th chapter)** Let us notice what a growth and development of faith came with this battle as it was met right. Elijah went over to this widow's home to board. And introduced himself by asking her for a cake. You all know the story. She told him that she only had a handful of meal and a little oil in the cruse, and she intended making a cake, and she and her son were going to eat it and then die. Kindly notice that this was some financial battle; and it was impossible for them to beg, borrow, or steal, for there was a famine in that land. This poor widow could not have bought anything if she would have had a million dollars. There was no beefsteak to be bought, not even brisket, but they were glad to have that handful of meal, which was all that stood. between them and death in the dreadful famine. Do we fully realize what a trial this was? We surely ought to meditate over these examples more than we do. This act of Elijah's was certainly a cruel one, from a human standpoint, more heartless than any mentioned in

the Bible, I think. A professing Christian man coming to the home of a widow woman and demanding her to make him a cake first, in the face of her telling him that she only had enough meal and oil to make one cake for herself and son and then die. In other words, Elijah asked her to take all she had in the house and give it to him. Think of such a request! She could sit down and watch him eat and she and her son could perish for all he cared! Remember it was the first time she ever saw that man. It was the first time God ever asked anyone to do such a thing. I believe we would rather do most anything than go through such an ordeal. I am sure Satan was very active in that home about this time, making all sorts of suggestions.

(14) *“For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.”*

That was the other side of the question, divinely speaking. Beloved, it was the greatest favor, the most valuable, from a divine standpoint that one human being could ever ask another to do; it was of high spiritual worth, for they lived through that famine, which was directly opposite from the human plan. It was the greatest request ever asked, the most valuable. Just think of it from a divine standpoint! One would not imagine that anything could be so entirely different; but so, it is when God is back of it.

Elijah and that family lived by faith during the entire period of that famine, and something further happened to perfect that woman's faith in God. Her son died. When he became sick, she did not send for a doctor. When she found herself in trouble, she sent for Elijah. She said to him; **(18)** *“Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?”* She believed that her son had died because of covered sin in her life. Beloved, as she met this issue according to God's Word, that boy was raised from the dead before her.

We have the same thought in the healing of Naaman. **(2 Kings 5th chapter)** As he met the conditions of healing, it gave him a faith which enabled him to leave his old church and gave him a knowledge of God which very few have today, even among leaders of professed Christians. He

discovered that the God of Israel was the only true and living God; that the God Who had healed him was the only God to be worshipped.

In the Book of Ruth, we find that Elimelech and his family were facing a famine in the land of Judah, but they tried to make an escape, a deliverance out of their difficulty. They moved over into the land of Moab, which was a direct disobedience to God's Word. As a result of this, they lost their faith in God. Rebellion and disobedience always robs us of faith. They had just one trial; it was a financial trial pure and simple. As a result of that loss of faith, the father and two sons lost their lives; so, the mother came back and started anew, and faith and prosperity began; but not until there was a thorough repentance.

King Asa in his first battle, (2 Chronicles 14:9) when Zerah, the Ethiopian came against him to battle with *"a thousand thousand men and three hundred chariots,"* he cried unto the Lord (11) *"It is nothing with thee to help, whether with many or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God."* He met the trial in God's way and came out more than conqueror.

Later when Baasha king of Israel came against him to battle, he sent over to Benhadad, king of Syria to assist him. As a result of this the prophet came and told him he would have wars from henceforth.

"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers." (2 Chronicles 16:12-13)

The second time the trial came he sent to Benhadad for help; and when the prophet reproved him for such an act of unbelief, he did not meet it right, but put the prophet into prison; hence, his disease came and he had no faith in God for healing. His previous attitude to God and His Word had robbed him of all faith to trust Him for the disease in those feet. Beloved, we must keep our faith growing. It is more important that we go through in God's way, and we will find ourselves in trials and battles, until we learn to meet them in God's way; then Satan is done when he sees we are determined to go through in God's way, meeting every trial in a Scriptural way. We will then

have perfect victory in everything; our blessings will overflow.

We just desire to quote a few verses in (1 Peter 5:8-10) which illustrates the whole story. *"Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith."*

That is what we have been talking about, how our faith can be perfected and strengthened. *"knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while,"*

By meeting every kind of temptation and trial just as God directs in His Word. *"make you perfect, stablish: strengthen, settle you."*

Is it worthwhile going through trials successfully?



www.fcgchurch.org

**Receive free Tracts email:*

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

S026 25 1026P