

The Foundation of Faith

(LESSON 4) PART 2

S029 25 1116P

We should get down before God and take a promise and pray as it directs and definitely settle it to believe just what that promise says, keep that promise before us the entire day, believing it instead of the lies of the devil when he presents his suggestions, doubts and fears.

Suppose you pray in the morning that you want a changed home. We are only using this for an illustration that we might see how Satan tries to rob us. After prayer you find yourself with these thoughts: "I do not see any change, but I do hope that sometime, somehow, and somewhere there will be a change wrought."

That woman of Canaan had the devil in her home, and he was certainly entrenched there. (Matthew 15:22-28) She had a difficult time to even get a promise to have Satan rebuked. She had no such promises as we have today, but she came to Jesus Christ for help; telling Him her trouble, making her plea to Him, the Son of God.

(22) *"Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil."*

There was one sensible thing about this poor woman, she put the blame just where it belonged. Mothers these days growl at Johnnie, Mary, husband, and wife. But we must learn to be as kind and gentle to our loved ones as the Bible directs us to be.

Another thing we must learn is to place the blame where it belongs. We should not be blaming and accusing our loved ones, but place the whole blame on Satan, who is the one who uses them to disturb our peace. All that our husbands, wives, and children have ever done to us is just as real from Satan as could be.

If a boy threw a stone at you, would you start to fight with that stone saying, "Why did you hit me, stone?" We would not think of doing any such a thing, it is too foolish to mention.

Now Satan gets possession of a member of our family, and they get to nagging about something, and we immediately begin to deal with them and scold and complain and do not treat them just as we should, instead of putting the blame where it belongs on Satan. He has no business to start any trouble in our home and when we really know that it is Satan, the battle is practically won. As soon as we will have common sense and recognize that the devil is the cause of all this trouble and not try to fight the person he is using, it will allow God to conquer Satan. We are privileged to hand the matter over to our great Policeman—if we may express it in such language—God and the Holy Spirit.

When the woman of Canaan came to Jesus with her plea, He answered her not a word. We desire to notice how these deliverances were always wrought in the present moment; the very moment they were willing to accept the Word of God as the evidence; they had no difficulty in receiving anything. Every battle we are in, every prolonged battle is the result of listening to Satan, going by what we can see and feel, rejecting the Word of God. Let us notice this case, as it is a heart searcher, it is a trimmer and pruner.

(24) *"But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying 'Send her away; for she crieth after us.' But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

Would not the average preacher be delighted to find a place in the Bible where it states that God has not promised to heal people in this Age. The pastor said, "They would certainly shoot at me with their arguments, because they would like us to believe that healing ceased after the third century. They try to make their flock believe that healing stopped with the Apostles; but

we are glad to say that wherever the Gospel is preached these wonderful miracles are a result.

If Jesus Christ had failed to grant this woman a deliverance for her daughter, we would receive more arguments than ever, as they would find ground for them; but, as it is, they have no ground whatever. He did, however, tell her that He did not come to heal Gentile women's daughters; but she did not accept that as a final answer but kept on pleading for that daughter's freedom from the power of the devil. We have promises today to have Satan cast out of our home and loved ones.

(25-26) *"Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, 'Lord help me.' But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs."*

It would be just as unreasonable for Him to heal her daughter as it would be to cast children's bread to the dogs; because she was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician woman, which would have been the same as a parent taking bread which belonged to children and giving it to dogs.

I often wonder how much further we would have gone, after receiving the rebukes this poor woman did; would we have gone on praying and making our claim for deliverance? The pastor said, "I believe we would have ceased at once." But she made another plea: **(27)** *"And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."*

Her daughter was not delivered yet; but this time Jesus gave her a promise; it took all that time for her to even receive a promise, and we have had these precious promises for 2000 years. At this point of her experience, she came to the place where we are today.

(28) *"O woman great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."*

"O woman, great is thy faith:"—that is no promise, but it shows the discernment those twelve disciples had when they desired Jesus to send her away, because she cried after Him. They were wondering why on earth He was wasting

so much time with her, wasting such valuable time with such a common woman. They could not understand Him; and yet, He walked sixty miles and took twelve preachers with Him to this wonderful convention. This beats all the other conventions I ever heard of, all the conventions I ever read about; I say it with reverence. One person in the audience, thirteen preachers having walked sixty miles in order to hold the meeting; but there was a victory won, a lesson of faith learned which was worth more than you would hear in ten million churches today. It was the greatest convention ever held of its kind.

“O woman, great is thy faith:”—yet that is no promise. The promise to her was—“be it unto thee even as thou wilt.” I have given you just what you have asked for: which is John 16:23-24 in a nutshell. No matter where we are today God is saying unto us: “Be it unto you even as you desire.” That is what He says to every prayer request we make. *“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive that your joy may be full.”* (John 16:23-24)

“Be it unto thee as thou wilt.”

What did this woman do? She said, “Oh, my daughter is still oppressed. I do wish I would receive deliverance from that burden and oppression of Satan.” Did she? Did she say like we do: “I think my Mary is about the worst child I ever saw, she is so disobedient. I certainly do not know what is the matter; I never did anybody any harm. I always paid my honest debts, always tried to live a Christian life.”

That is how the average person would go from this meeting. We should go home with a huge smile on our face. If we are oppressed in body, we should take a five-mile hike with a vengeance. If there ever was a happy woman, it was this poor Syrophenician woman.

What evidence did she have for the healing of her daughter? The promise of Jesus Christ in John 16:23-24; but she accepted it, she believed just as really and truly that her daughter was well

as if she had never been oppressed. This is just where our faith hinges, that is the goal we are to reach, where we will accept as all sufficient evidence the Word of God.

Where we will cry as did Jehoshaphat: *“O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.”* (2nd Chronicles 20:12)

As this stand was taken, God replied a wonderful encouraging answer(15) *“Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”* (17) *“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you.”*

Do not think they were not tempted to go by sight and feeling. Of course, they were, as Satan was right there with his doubts and fears. Their enemies were right at the gates of the city, ready to come in upon them. In the face of this terrible calamity comes the encouraging words: “Ye shall not need to fight in this battle.”

All they had was the Word of God, which means so little to people in this day, and yet that Word is to judge us at the last day, it is to judge the world, that Word which cannot be broken. That Word is the bridge of escape from sin, sorrow, and disease; the only bridge of escape.

When we accept that Word and go over the bridge, it brings us to the place where we shall be delighted to accept it as sufficient evidence that the work is done, that the Word means just what it says; and the entire storehouse of God, of righteousness, peace, health, protection, and financial blessing—in fact, everything we desire for ourselves and family is showered upon us, in the present moment, just as we need them. There are no long-drawn-out cases where people believe God. The enemy was just as strong, just as large, and great that day as today.

“And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord,

worshipping the Lord. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.” (2nd Chronicles 20:18-19)

They really and truly accepted that Word just as if their enemies were already dead people, just as much as if they already saw the battle fought and won. The next morning, they went out—just think of it—from every human standpoint, they were going out to certain and terrible death at the hands of a cruel and heartless enemy, (Satan himself) a hostile army; however, all they were to do was to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Jehoshaphat reminded his people of God’s promise, just one thing they were to keep in mind: (20) *“Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets so shall ye prosper.”*

In other words, he said, “Be sure you believe that Word which was given to you, keep that Word before you, put all your faith in that Word, not in anything else.”

(21) *“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever.”*

They sang praises of victory on nothing but the bare Word of God. They had no other evidence but that Word. Let us remember over against our sin is that Word, alongside your trouble is that Word, they stand side by side. The Word says the work is done the moment we ask, it makes no difference what we see or feel. If it emptied Heaven, the devil would have to go down, and we be upheld spiritually, physically, in our home-life and along every line, because the Word cannot be broken.

www.fcgcchurch.org

fcgcchurch1@gmail.com

PO Box 24283 Philadelphia, PA 19120

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