

How Faith Grows and Is Perfected

PART 2

S033 25 1214P

The real object why faith should grow and be perfected is that we might enter in and enjoy—without limitation or restriction—our full inheritance in Christ, because everything we receive from God is received through faith, and as our faith is perfected, our blessings are perfected.

God can only give us blessings to the extent that we learn two lessons: first, to look to Him alone for the blessing, to depend upon Him alone to grant the blessing and to know that He sends it when it comes. That is what faith does.

The pastor continued, "I do not think we realize the great danger of the delusions of this Age that a person can be spiritual and yet shut God out of the personal details of their life. The teaching of today is that a person can go to Heaven on account of having a little spirituality, although they control and handle every detail of their lives according to their own ideas and plans.

That is a very serious delusion—very subtle—because it strikes at the very vitals of Christianity and destroys it. Furthermore, it destroys all possibility of anyone being ready to meet Jesus when He comes, because our possibility of being ready to meet Jesus is to discover how to fight the battles of this life successfully along the lines of faith, and if that is not done, God is shut out of our lives.

There is no more effective avenue of growth and development in faith than the financial battles. The whole object of these battles, the issue involved, the great value of these battles is that we might learn to trust God alone and not depend on human efforts of any kind. When we have made this determination and are holding steadfast at that point, our trouble will not be

how to get the money, but what to do with our surplus money.

Dear hearts, we want to remember that when we start out to trust God financially, we want to hold steadfast above all things, because of the arguments that Satan puts up. We must remember that we have fallen heir to God's financial wealth, and there is no reason why we cannot have all the money we need. This is a very comforting thing to know.

When we start to pray for money—no matter what the circumstances are, no matter what we have to battle against, it is no proof that we cannot receive what we are trusting God for. We must remember that we have fallen heir to God's wealth, that we really have a bank account in Heaven, just as real as if we had gone and placed it in an earthly bank ourselves. Just think of that! Do we really understand that we have millions of dollars in actual money, in our name, in Heaven's bank?

We will find that money will not be hard to get, but it will really be thrust at us when we once learn this lesson of God's financial plan; for we will have all the money possible at our command—for ourselves and all we need to give away. If we are multi-millionaires, we ought to have enough to glorify our Heavenly Father.

It is always delightfully easy to trust God financially, after we have learned our first lessons, because God is just waiting to throw these blessings at us. He is desirous that we should enjoy all spiritual peace and blessings, that we should enjoy all physical blessings, health and protection, as well as financial supplies; He desires that our cup should overflow. He is desirous that our home life should be just right in every way. When our faith is centered in Him and we can say truthfully, from the heart; "All my help from Thee I bring; my expectation is from Thee." When we have that single eye God's blessings begin to flow at once.

It is only Satan who tries to keep us from discovering this fact, tries to rob and hinder us from receiving it. He causes us to become discouraged at the least thing and lay down our arms and give up when in a financial battle.

But, if we are determined to hold steadfast and to learn our lesson thoroughly, determined, to graduate in the school of financial trust, as well as, faith, love, knowledge, and the power of God, determined to go through right up to the mark, there will be a great death of self. This is a great

factor in the death of self in all things, because self hates to trust God financially.

Beloved, in part one of this message, we were reminded that we will be tested at every turn, our faith will be tested, our stand will be tested and, if there is the slightest little thing about our surrender, our faith, our stand which is not perfect, Satan will have the advantage over us.

The pastor continued, "Sometime ago a person—who was professing to trust God for their body, was in dreadful agony, and they called up at two o'clock in the morning and said they could not stand it any longer, so they wrung out a cloth in hot water. They stood as long as they could; there was something lacking in their stand. Under such pressure and suffering surely something had to be done! That is true; but there is only one thing for a Christian to do.

This may seem like a very innocent thing, but that little "catch" of wringing out a cloth in hot water, instead of pleading the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ caused that whole trouble and agony and was also hindering the fulness of blessing to that health. Just a little thing can hinder our fulness of blessing. Joseph had a little "catch" left; but God desires His people to have perfect peace, righteousness, health, protection and victory along every line. There dare not be one "catch" in our hearts, no matter how little.

The chief butler and baker in Pharaoh's home dreamed a dream while they were in prison. God had that little scene all prepared. He knew that little "catch." Joseph began to tell these men the story of his life, how he had been taken from his father's house, sold into slavery, lied about by a wicked woman, falsely accused, and placed into prison.

"But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon." (Genesis 40:14-15)

"Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him." (Genesis 40:23)

It was that little "catch" which put him into prison. It is always the "catch" in the Christian's heart which causes the trouble in the home; it is the cause of our financial battles. Just think of it,

was not for the little "catches", we would not have the battles we do; we would not have to wonder what is the best way to do and take, not worrying about making both ends meet.

God permitted this thing to come to Joseph just to prove and test him and enable him to see what had caused all his trouble, and how he could get rid of it. Just a change of attitude will end all our troubles. It will cause our faith to grow and develop, while a wrong attitude will give the devil an advantage over us; and just think what troubles and battles it throws us into. If we change our attitude, peace, blessing, and prosperity will come in.

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:11)

The butler and baker dreamed a dream; the chief butler was restored to his position, and the baker was hanged. Joseph made a plea to the butler to make an escape for him. It looked like a wonderfully innocent little plan. We have heard it many times, but it comes down with increased force at the present time and reveals to us how prone man is to worship the creature more than the Creator. This follows us far into our Christian life.

Often, we are all of the opinion that our knowledge is far ahead of the wisdom and knowledge of God. When we find ourselves in a financial battle, we think that if I could only go to some man and talk about this financial battle; if only some person knew how hard up I was for money, they might divide with me. If only man knew this and man knew that! If only man knew I was in this battle, how happy I would be! If I could only tell somebody besides God. "Well, I will stand it a certain length of time, and if it comes to the worst, I will take the rent money; I will counsel with someone."

We have no right to counsel with anyone when we are in a financial battle, nor tell them of our needs. If we do that it reveals the "catch" in our hearts, which will rob us of the blessings desired. It would be better to miss a few meals, to go scant with our clothes, better to go without heating oil, that we might prove the living God to send us heating oil, clothing, and food; then we

will discover that when wealthy people are unable to get it, we will be supplied. We will find that rich people will be going to the almshouse or poor-house ahead of us.

Joseph resorted to self-efforts, fleshly efforts entirely, to be released from that prison. He said— “I am perfectly innocent; I was stolen from the Hebrews and then all the other unpleasant things followed; do try to get me out of this predicament; speak to Pharaoh about my case.” All the trouble we have ever had, there is just one cause hidden down in our hearts.

The pastor continued, “A woman told me once that when she started out, she did not have any idea of using self-efforts, but it happened just the same and unconscious to herself; that very circumstance brought out the “catch” in her heart.

Joseph said to the butler— “Get me out of this place.” Many days, many weeks, and many months passed by and Joseph listened for the footsteps of some messenger stating that his plea had been heard. It took two full years to prove that “vain is the help of man;” nevertheless, the butler “forgat” Joseph. As soon as he had learned his lesson and settled matters that if he never got out of his troubles, if he never was released from that prison, he would trust no one but God to get him out. If the butler had spoken for him, God would not have gotten the glory, and we would never have heard of Joseph. But God, in His great mercy, allowed the butler to forget Joseph, in order that he might learn the wisest and sweetest lesson of transferring his confidence from every human power and source and plan to the living God.

It is God’s desire that we do exactly the same for our spirits, souls, bodies, homes, and finances and that all our hopes be centered on Him alone and our faith be in His power. No matter what nature these difficulties may be, spiritual, physical, or financial, God will deliver us and shower His fulness of blessing of every kind upon us, blessings of the most practical kind; we will have a little heaven to go to Heaven in; heaven will become our portion at once, when we settle that little “catch” matter.

As soon as our confidence is transferred, finally and forever, when we have gotten at the end of “butler” confidence, and every bridge between us and the world has been burned something will happen at once. When Joseph got all this confidence out of his heart, Pharaoh dreamed a dream, and he immediately sent for Joseph who interpreted that dream. As a consequence, Pharaoh gave him a splendid position. God caused him to be made practically the head of the land of Egypt.

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this; there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.” (**Genesis 41:39-40**)

Then God gave him a lovely wife, the daughter of a priest; He made him perfectly happy; after which He ran his cup over with joy when He sent his brothers to be saved and gave him back to his Father, that they might all live happy. God also gave him plenty of money. That is what God is striving to do, to save our lives and bring us fulness of blessing and to make our last days just as delightful, as only He can.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&&



www.fcqchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:

fcqchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

S032 25 1214P