

The Value of Dealing With God Personally

PART TWO

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There is nothing which can take the place of personal dealing with God. We look to each other, lean on each other, and we leave God out. We desire to see; that is not going to help us, we desire to see where our deliverance is to come from, and how it is to come.

People wrote to us--it is heart-breaking to read their letters: "We have perfect confidence in you, that God will hear your prayers for us." That is a puzzling thing to me, the pastor said, a problem that I have never been able to solve. They say: "I have confidence in God, and He will hear your prayers and deliver me." That is as much idolatry as to bow down to the golden image. God will deliver them in answer to their prayers, as much as in answer to ours. Their language implies that God would heal them in answer to our call, but He would not heal them in answer to their own call. That just turns the Gospel inside out and upside down.

The Gospel plan is that God will hear and answer the individual prayer from beginning to end. That is the supreme object of the Gospel. That is one of the troubles with the "Tongues" people; they depend on the man or woman who lays hands on them.

It is all right to use this ordinance when young in the way, but if you use it continually, it becomes idolatry, because you depend more on the ordinance of laying on of hands than you do upon God Himself, Whose power really does the work. What people need to be taught is--not to have hands laid on or be anointed with oil--but how to go to God direct and deal with Him and receive their deliverances direct. Paul said to

people he visited, that they ought to be teaching others and were still repenting and had not learned the first principles of faith in God.

"Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." (Hebrews 6:1)

A foundation should be laid so that we will deal with God directly and walk with Him from the beginning of our Christian life; then we can receive our deliverances, because the Holy Spirit can inspire us with confidence in God for personal help first and all the time.

The second point, and a very comforting one, is that God never scolds or finds fault with us for anything we have done. No matter how sinful we have been, how mean and contemptible, how unreasonable we are; He knows all about us, and yet He never scolds us.

You take some of the cases Jesus met; I suppose some of the preachers would not have bothered speaking to them, or taking up their time with such miserable, sinful people as they.

Just consider the demoniac of Gadara; he certainly was a very bad case, humanly speaking. He had broken the heart of his wife, and she was more gray-haired than many of us here worrying about his condition; I am sure her nerves were wrecked more than any of ours; his children were harassed almost to death; his neighbors were tormented by his conduct; everybody had tried to manage and control him and keep him down; but the net result of all their efforts was that he was found in the graveyard, naked, screaming night and day and attacking everyone who came near him. Jesus met him one day, and from this meeting we will discover how He dealt with such cases. He came to Jesus as a roaring lion, crying: "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not." (Mark 5:7)

Jesus said unto him: "What is your name?" He did not say, "Why are you seeking to make so much trouble; you ought to be ashamed of yourself for treating your wife and children in such a way; you ought to be ashamed to meet people the way you have acted." If we used as much divine commonsense in dealing with our families as Jesus teaches here, there would be some real

conversions in our homes. However, we are under the impression that we must use our tongues to complain and admonish people. There was not a word of complaint, not a word of upbraiding; He was just as pleasant as He could be.

I am sure there was a Heavenly calm about Jesus, and as that man looked at Him, he saw the love of God shining in His face; he saw written there love, pity, and compassion. No scolding: "What is your name?" the man answered: "My name is Legion; there is a crowd of us." (Mark 5 :8) He dealt with the power that made that man act as he did.

I tell you the Son of God knows how to deal with fallen humanity; He never scolds us, saying: "What sins have you committed; well, you should have known better than that." It makes no difference what sins you have committed, how desperately wicked you are, or have been, He says: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

Is that not wonderful? That woman who was caught in that terrible sin (John 8) whom the Pharisees brought to Jesus for the sake of proving His doctrine; they desired to prove that He was a faker; they claimed to believe in a dead Moses. Do you know Satan's religion is founded on dead things. They believed in a dead Moses and rejected a living Christ; they founded their doctrine on a dead Moses and refused to have a living truth. Jesus was master of the situation, and He fixed this little affair up without any trouble and when He was through, this poor woman had something to live on, while the Pharisees clung to their dead creed, upon which their religion was founded.

Jesus Christ always offers something of life and power; and He never scolds anyone under any circumstances. You will notice when the prodigal son went home (Luke 15), he said within himself, "My father will be very angry with me; I expect a great scolding about my conduct." However, the father did not scold him at all, what did he do? When he saw him coming, he ran to meet him and threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. This is an exhibition of what Jesus

does; He has the very same feeling toward us; He never scolds us, never upbraids us, never finds fault with us; He is willing to treat us exactly as He did that woman who was caught in the very act of that dreadful sin.

The Pharisees said: "Now, we have Him, we will prove that He is wrong in His doctrines, our church teaches that we must not listen to Him; so they brought this poor woman to the Master, saying: "This woman was caught in the very act of sin; Moses said such should be stoned to death, what do you say?" Jesus did not scold her. He did not say one word to her. It was a terrible sin, a vile sin, one which deserved death indeed, from a human standpoint. Jesus began to write on the ground; then He answered them and gave them something to think about: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." (John 8:7)

Was that not an answer? He did not scold her for being such a wicked woman. One after the other went away and the woman was left alone with Jesus, and He said to her: "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Neither do I throw thee aside is what He meant to express. Was that not kindness? Finally, and briefly, God always shows us the way to victory. We hear people continually saying: "I do not know what the matter with me is; I have tried every way, and I cannot get spiritual victory; I have believed the best I know how and cannot get my health." They have tried every way but GOD'S way. It will not take ten minutes to go before God and ask Him what the trouble with you is, why you do not get victory; it will only take one heart-cry; but it must be personal, direct dealing with God.

The pastor said years ago, when he had a child with a fever and could not get deliverance, he went before the Lord and told Him that he desired to know two things, why he had not that deliverance and how to get it. God brought to his mind the fact that he had never taken a promise and prayed as it directed and really believed upon the authority of that promise, but had simply asked God to heal his girl, forgetting that all deliverances were to come through the promises of God. The pastor said, "I took that promise in 1

John 5:14-15, and it was very plain and positive, and I saw--much as I desired to get away from it.

I must believe that plain statement and meet its conditions to receive that deliverance. That promise told me that if I prayed for healing, He heard me, and if I knew that He heard me I knew that I had the answer to my prayer. "Why," the pastor said, "that is an elevator which takes me right up to God for that deliverance; that transfers me from defeat to victory.

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

The pastor said, "That is not defeat, but victory; I have the VICTORY." I knew I had a judicial or God-given right to be happy and contented, if I believed that girl was perfectly well. The pastor continued, "The Lord seemed to ask me the question: what would I do if I believed that girl was well? I well knew that I must believe she was well as soon as I was through praying and that faith without works is dead; but how I could act out faith for a sick child was more than I knew how to do.

He said that if I had stomach trouble, I would eat a full meal to act out my faith; if I was a cripple, I would throw away my crutches. Thank God, when we deal with Him direct, He always has a way, and He knows how to deal with poor mortals like us. He put into the pastor's mind this thought: "Where would that burden be if you really believed that little girl was healed?"

Why, the pastor thought, I would be very happy indeed, as happy as the birds flying in the blue sky, my skies would be clear. He continued, I got off my knees and began to be as happy as it was possible to be- although I was just as heavy-hearted as before I knelt down. He began to sing and act happy, and before he reached the end of the church building, the whole burden passed off and when he arrived home that girl was healed.

Satan was not on a vacation. The devil suggested to my mind, as plainly as he could, that I was not taking hold, by faith, that I would find that girl just as sick as when I left the house. The pastor said to devil: "I do not care how she is; I am going to stand on that Word of God." If you mean to stand on the Word, victory is sure to

come, but if you run at the least firecracker Satan sets off, you will receive no deliverance at all.

As the pastor entered the side yard, Satan said: "You will not find that girl any better. The pastor answered him: "I have the victory." With all his faith, he was a little startled when he saw her. As he met his wife, he asked: "How is she?"

His wife replied, "Oh, she is all right." Then the pastor asked when the change took place, and she said about 4:30 she got up and asked for a piece of bread and butter.

The pastor said that he had been a Christian many years, but that was the first time that he really knew what real faith was--to be dead sure on the naked promises that we have what we asked for as soon as we are through praying, without seeing or feeling it. If it emptied Heaven to help you, God would do it when you really choose to believe His naked Word.

You remember the man in Mark 9, he came for the deliverance of his son, and after making his plea to Jesus, He exposed the hindrance to that victory. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23)

This man did not have a particle of faith; he was looking for a human deliverance, his faith was in human beings for the help of that boy. He had appealed to the disciples first, and when he found they could not help the boy, he came to Jesus. After the hindrance was exposed, he only made one more prayer and the victory came.

"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

These examples will rise up before us, and we do not have the slightest excuse for not receiving our deliverances. We have a personal God to avenge all our wrongs and help us in every time of trouble, so we have no excuse; the sooner we admit our wrongs, the better it will be for us.

Remember that man who was let down through the roof (Mark 2); what did he do after Jesus told him he was a well man? Did he lie around and wait for the healing? No, he got right up and went home, as Jesus commanded him.

There is not a sick person, not an afflicted person in this meeting the pastor said who would start off and continue to act like a well person, who would not put Satan to flight; instead of walking one block, walk fifty, instead of looking forward to a long drawn-out battle, start to clean house from the cellar to the attic. The pastor

continued, "I like to see people have easy work, but when it comes to acting out their faith, I like to see them do so strenuously. Instead of lying around and suffering, get up and work hard."

Take the case of the Lepers (Luke 17:32), all the evidence they had of their healing was the naked Word of Jesus Christ: "Go show yourselves to the priest." As they went, they were healed, and that will be our experience, as we step out in dependence upon the naked Word of God., God tells us how to deal with Him, by being careful for nothing.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Tell God all about your trouble; open your heart to Him without reserve, personal dealing with Him. As we do this, the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep us in union with Jesus Christ. It means we are made a branch of the Vine (Jesus Christ) in reality and truth, and every prayer is answered.

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