

Walking in Faith

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Our time on earth is very precious to God because it is the only opportunity we have to exercise faith. It is *faith* that pleases Him. In heaven, we will have no need for faith—everything will become sight.

But on the earth, God requires us to walk by faith so He can test our capacity to trust in Him. Jesus Christ isn't here physically for us to see and touch. That wouldn't require faith on our part. Yet by faith, He desires to bring us into intimacy with Himself and to enable us to experience every aspect of His essence and nature.

When the children of Israel went into Canaan, there were enemies to battle and territory to claim by faith. There were strongholds to overcome. It is the same way in every Christian's life.

The enemies are driven out as we learn to believe on His Word, receive from His cup of salvation and walk by faith in His Resurrection victory.

Jesus Christ doesn't want details and struggles to steal our fellowship with Him. Allow this booklet to motivate you as you consider the possibilities and potential you have to walk by faith with Christ.

Chapter One
BROUGHT OUT TO BE
BROUGHT IN

“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:7-8a).

“[The LORD] *brought us out* from [Egypt], that he might *bring us in*, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers” (Deuteronomy 6:23).

“And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee” (Deuteronomy 7:22).

The Lord has brought us out of the bondage of the world so that He might bring us into His

victories. Still, there is a tremendous problem that many people face. Sorrows can become so deeply entrenched that we find it difficult at times to really understand the intimacy of God. Some people feel almost lost—not lost to God, but lost in their problems and trials. They seem to have lost the intimacy they once had with God.

If you feel like you're in this place, God is saying to you, "I have seen your sorrows and I am very aware of them. I know them and I know *you*, and I am coming down personally to bring you out of these sorrows into a new intimacy with Me."

Throughout the Scriptures, God has given so many promises to the believer that are relevant and consistent with this principle, as in Philipians 4:19: "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Above everything else, God desires intimacy with His people. Our sorrows, trials, and needs should bring us into intimacy with Christ instead of taking away from our fellowship with Him and causing that relationship to become impersonal. For some, the problems may be physical. But God wants our problems, whatever their nature, to bring us into a greater expe-

rience of intimacy with Jesus Christ.

Driving Out the Enemies

Don't rule out the possibilities and potential we can have with God through that intimacy. God didn't "bring us out" just to leave us in the wilderness! Unfortunately, the majority in the nation of Israel didn't see it this way. Out of all the children twenty years old and younger, only Joshua and Caleb escaped the wilderness experience alive. They were able because they believed that God would bring them into Canaan, the Promised Land.

What does God bring the believer into? Certainly the verses in Deuteronomy 6:23 and 7:22 are not speaking of heaven. The earth—even from the standpoint of Finished Work victory—can never be compared to heaven. There are no enemies in heaven, but there were enemies in Canaan. According to Joshua 3:10, there were seven strong nations—with strongholds—in the land God gave to Israel!

Paul's letter to the Ephesians doesn't speak of life in heaven, but of life in the *heavenlies*. There are all kinds of battles in the heavenlies; demons attack in the heavenlies. But we wage those battles from the standpoint of our risen

Lord's victories—and that is the difference. Unlike the carnal Christian or the unbeliever, we don't have to struggle with the powers of the darkness to suffer defeat again and again. Instead, the Spirit-filled believer battles in the power of the risen Lord.

Faith in Precise Promises

God told Israel, "I'm going to bring you into Canaan. The enemies will be driven out little by little, and I will bring you in; but first, I am going to take you through the *Red Sea*. Then, I'm going to take you through the *wilderness*. After the wilderness, I'll take you through the *Jordan River*—if you will let Me. And then you will have to face the seven strong nations that dwell in *Canaan*. But I have given you a *precise* promise!"

The Red Sea speaks of Christ's death for us, while the Jordan River speaks of our death and resurrection with Christ. The wilderness in between represents times in a believer's life when he doesn't sense the presence of God, because of either rebellion or tests of faith ordained by God. We enter into our death with Christ so we can be delivered into Canaan, the land of God's promises for the believer right now.

The Lord gave His people a clear picture of

what they would face: “Canaan is a place of warfare. You have an enemy to contend with in your earthly experiences. Therefore, I want you to realize that while I promise to bring you into Canaan, you *must* walk by faith!”

The only reason Jesus Christ is no longer here physically, to be seen and touched, is that believing in Him would not require faith on our part. He does not do everything we want (and *when* we want Him to do it) because that wouldn't require us to exercise faith in all the characteristics of Christ. As we grow in intimacy with Him, God wants to reveal every aspect of His essence and every characteristic of His nature to us.

Faith is the *only* thing that pleases God (Hebrews 11:6), and our time on earth is the only time we are able to live by faith. There will be no need for faith in heaven—everything will become sight. But today, faith is required to test our capacity to trust in Him.

The Victory Side of Calvary

“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this peo-*

ple, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel" (Joshua 1:1-2).

Moses was dead, and it was time for Joshua to move on in God's plan for him as a leader and for the nation of Israel. To some, God has said "Your loved one is dead. Now, go over this Jordan and except for the fragrance of memories, don't dwell on it any more." Perhaps certain relationships in your life are dead. Because they are, don't think about them. Walk by faith, right now. Go over this Jordan; it's your Jordan. Don't dwell on what has died, because it won't do one measure of good.

God said, "*Arise*, and go over *this* Jordan." Hours of foolishness and emotional energy go into things that people can do nothing about. This is irresponsible to faith, irresponsible to God's promises, and irresponsible to God's provision.

Claiming the Territory

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses" (Joshua 1:3). God has given us the whole land; yet, He will not give us a single thing that we don't claim *now*. In other words, we have been given a title deed; but unless we make a claim, we will not be blessed with our

inheritance. We have been given promises, but unless we claim them as our own, we will not be blessed with their provisions. *Any promise we do not claim from the Word will not be ours*, even though God has already given us the whole land.

Scores of people just don't understand this principle. They struggle with the power of darkness instead of working from the victory side of the Cross. The tomb is *empty*. We stand on an empty tomb! Do you realize what that means? There is no dead body in it. Only Christians can make this claim. And standing on an empty tomb, God commands us to go over this Jordan.

Today, there are strongholds beyond our Jordan. Canaan is a place of conflict and confrontation. But God says, "Go over this Jordan—I will not give you personal victory or fulfillment until you, individually, put your foot down and claim what's in this Book!" (Joshua 1:3).

Canaan is a land of maturity and stability, a land of *greater* grace. As we become little enough to let a big God use us and small enough to allow a big God's provision to become ours, then we will experience His strength being made perfect in our weakness.

Chapter Two

FAITHFULNESS TO
A DISTINCT CALL

The first thing the Israelites had to understand about personal victory when they entered into Canaan was that they had to be faithful. God had given them precise promises, but they were to respond by obeying Him in faith. God didn't just wipe out all the enemies in Canaan, neither will He do that for the Christian.

God has given every believer eternal security, establishing us in positional truth at the point of salvation. He sealed us with His Spirit and gave us more than seven thousand promises as our provision—a guarantee that He would never leave us nor forsake us. But with all He has done, He will not deal with us as “puppets” concerning the victory of the Finished Work. We start out from an empty tomb; we begin in the Resurrection of our risen Lord.

Be Strong in the Call

The first requirement for experiencing victory is faithfulness. The ancient historian Josephus recorded that Joshua spent forty years in Egypt and then forty years in the wilderness—eighty years of experience; eighty years of being faithful.

The second thing about victory is to *know* that God has called us individually. Joshua 1:5-7 describes God's *distinct call* upon Joshua:

“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. *Be strong and of a good courage*: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the [doctrine], which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.”

As Christians, we have a distinct call. When we know it, we put our foot down on a promise. Nothing can take us away from faith in that promise. A plan is only as good as the character

of the planner. God the Father, the Planner, is perfect; therefore, His plan is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30).

God said to Joshua, “Put your foot down and start walking. Cross over this Jordan and keep right on walking. Your enemies will be driven out, but not all at once, lest you become proud.”

God won't allow our enemies to be driven out all at once. Of course, that's what we would all like Him to do, just as we would all like for God to remove our old sin nature, right now! But even though He hasn't, we don't have to *live* in our old sin nature (though unfortunately it comes up from time to time).

But God has promised that our enemies will be driven out, little by little, as we choose to walk by faith and honor His promises. It's a precious word from Jesus Christ—the Captain of the host (Joshua 5:14)—a distinct call to walk by faith.

The Power of the Indwelling Word

According to Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law [(doctrine)] shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according

to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

In order to really understand what God has promised, the Word of God must dwell in us. We need to meditate on it day and night, and then we will prosper. Then we will have good success. Then we will be conformed to Jesus Christ’s image. Through meditation upon the Word of God, a faithful man with a distinct call enters into his potential and comes in to the place God promised to bring him in life.

Because the people were fearful, the Lord reiterated to Joshua, “Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:9).

Chapter Three

WALKING IN VICTORY

“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, *Pass through the host*, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it” (Joshua 1:10).

Joshua commanded his men to pass through and possess the land: *God had given them a promise from His Word!* Remember: Canaan is not heaven. The Finished Work is not heaven. These are places of warfare.

Because we are standing on an empty tomb, we stand in the victory of a risen Lord. We face this warfare with the risen Lord who has already defeated Satan. The devil’s grounds to hinder us are lies and circumstances he arranges (which are permitted by God). We must stand against our feelings, Satan’s cosmic system, his projections, and our subconscious thoughts in the

flesh: *These* are our enemies.

But we have a *risen* Lord! We are not “working *toward*” Calvary; we are walking *from* Calvary. The Cross is the place where Satan was defeated, and the Cross is the place where our battle in the flesh ends. We walk from Calvary in the victory of the risen Lord.

Many do not understand this. They don’t understand what Jesus meant when he said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take *my yoke* upon you, and learn of me” (Matthew 11:28-29a). *His* yoke means that God Almighty has defeated Satan. Therefore, in the battles that we *will* go through and in the phenomenal strongholds we face in our Canaan, *it is not God who drives the enemies out!* We drive them out through the victory of the risen Lord.

We realize that our enemies are driven out *through* Christ, from the standpoint of Satan’s defeat and Jesus Christ’s victory. But He doesn’t just give the victory to me. Victory comes with *my* choices, *my* faith, *my* meditation on the Word of God, and *my* understanding that I have a distinct call. We are in union with His victory, but we have to walk by faith in what He says about it! This is the key.

Walk by Pure Faith-Rest

Every Christian has a superstructure of sanctification in positional truth. First, God predestinated us. Then, He called us, justified us, and finally glorified us (Romans 8:30). When Satan comes against us like a flood—using strongholds that have been in and around us for years—we must make choices to walk by pure faith-rest in what God says. But we need to operate in precise promises, precise words, and precise objectivity. Otherwise, we will not experience the Resurrection side of the Cross.

So many Christians seem to be walking toward the Cross when the Cross is a Finished Work. They are always wanting to “die to self,” always wanting to be buried, and always trying to change. But that’s not how it works! We are walking *from* the Cross, out of an empty tomb, in the newness of the Spirit of life, not in the oldness of the letter (Romans 6:4; 7:6).

Just keep walking. Just keep believing. The greatest believer in the world is the one who just keeps receiving. Don’t let anything stop your walk, because every step is ordained (Psalm 37:23) and under the direction of the Word of God (Psalm 119:133).

If something comes up and you fail, rebound immediately and get back to believing precisely on something God has said. Just keep receiving, believing, and walking. The strongest Christians in the world are those who are the greatest receivers of something they don't deserve. The greatest Christian is the one who keeps receiving, believing, and walking in what he believes.

Take the Cup of Salvation

“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of LORD ” (Psalm 116:12-13). What do I render the Lord for all He has done for me? *I will take*. The key is in *taking* something. I take purity. I take love. I take wisdom. I take grace. I take patience. I take kindness.

A person who gets angry all the time doesn't need to learn how to control his temper; he needs to take meekness from the life of Jesus Christ through the Spirit. He doesn't have to change; he has to *take* something to replace the anger.

A man doesn't have to “overcome” lust; he just has to *take purity*. Purity doesn't lust. It is received from the cup of salvation. Having a disciplined schedule is something we *take* from God's order of respect and responsibility of love.

What does a man render to God for all of His benefits? The Psalmist didn't say, "I will *do*...." He said, "I will *take* His life from the cup of salvation."

The cup represents your capacity for God. This means when you don't have something you need and you're feeling spiritually bankrupt (and we all feel this way at times), just drink what you need from the cup. Now you are no longer bankrupt because what was in the cup is now inside of you! The cup contains what you need for your situation today.

If there is a misunderstanding between me and someone else, I can quietly say, "It's only a detail of life!" And it's over. That's it! It's not a matter of whose fault it is. Who cares? The misunderstanding wasn't intentional. The important thing is that I take the meekness of Christ for that situation and drink it. Then I know that regardless of what caused the situation, it worked together for good to make me more like Jesus. All I had to do was take something from the cup quickly and drink His life.

In John 6:53, Jesus said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." His flesh is the bread from heaven—doctrine—and His blood is the blood

of the New Covenant that cleanses and purges us from Adam. Our part is to simply keep right on drinking from His life that is in the cup.

If you stop partaking of the cup, then all you have left is *yourself*. And no matter how many counseling sessions you have or how many messages you hear, no matter how much the pastor loves you, you *cannot* change yourself. But, you can be transformed at any moment by eating the Word of God and drinking the Blood of the New Covenant, as you continue to walk in faith.

CONCLUSION

Our capacity to walk by faith is in God's cup of salvation. It's not in anything that we can do; it is something that we take from Him because we stand upon an empty tomb in the power of Christ's Resurrection life.

Victory over our enemies has been accomplished in the Finished Work. There is nothing for us to wait for. We need only to believe, receive, and walk in faith.

Dear heavenly Father, we come to You as children who desire to know You more. As we face the enemies that assault our bodies, our minds, and our souls, we want to always take from the cup that overflows with all the provisions of heaven. Keep us in Your everlasting arms, trusting You when we cannot see Your face. Thank You for the gift of Your faith, that while we walk in faith, we can know that You have ordained our steps. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.