

Have Faith, Faint not – part 3

Today, I want to deal with the topic of having a faith that is unyielding, resilient and enduring.

I. Unyielding faith

Luke 22:28-32

V.31-32 - *31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

From this passage, I want to make three observations;

1. We don't always know every facet to our challenges. We are not always aware of what the enemy has arrayed against us – but God is. Like I said in last week's message, 'God will never be unprepared, surprised or outsmarted by the enemy'.

In **Revelation 2:10**, Jesus warned the church of an impending attack of the enemy.

2. Jesus said, '*But I have prayed for you*' – I see two important things here:
 - a) Jesus is for us. He said, "*I have prayed for you*". The passage makes clear Who is for us and who is against us. Jesus is for us.
 - b) The present-day ministry of Jesus at the right hand of the Father is that of a High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate.
Hebrews 7:25 says that "*He always lives to make intercession for them*".
3. V. *32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail.*

The enemy wants to destroy our faith. We can't allow our faith to fail in our trials – when the going gets tough, when we are under attack, when we don't seem to find answers and we don't know 'why'. Our faith needs to be unyielding, resilient and enduring.

The faith of the Thessalonians grew in the middle of trials:

1 Thessalonians 1:3-4 – *3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,*

II. How great is this faith?

Acts 3:16 - *16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

What great faith comes through Jesus!

It is great because we get saved by it but also because it is a faith that results in miraculous events like the one described in Acts 3: a man received ‘perfect soundness’.

We need to grow in that kind of faith – from the basic level of ‘salvation-faith’ to ‘miracle-faith’, to ‘mountain-moving kind of faith’!

III. Faith, the substance of miracles and key to the power of Jesus

Matthew 9:1-8 - 9 *So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ²Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” ³And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!” ⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’ ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ⁷And he arose and departed to his house. ⁸Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.*

1. Jesus saw their faith – the substance of miracles.

Jesus didn’t see faith everywhere He went - but here He ‘saw’ faith.

“Luke 18:8 ... *when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*”

2. Which is easier? Forgiveness of sins or healing?

V.5 - *For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’*

For us, both are impossibilities outside Jesus.

Matthew 19:25-26

To Jesus, both salvation and healing are just as “easy”. We need to grow in that revelation!

3. When faith is seen, power manifests

⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

- a) “Power on earth” – Heaven is a place full of power but it is not a place full of impossibilities – Earth is. Power is needed on Earth!
- b) “Power to men” - V.8 - *Now when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.*

Outside Christ we were weak – **Romans 5:6:** *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Ephesians 1:19 - *and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*

- c) "Power over" – **Matthew 10:1** – *“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease”.*

Conclusion

Faint not, fear not, stagger not, consider not the circumstances and make sure your faith doesn't fail!

Consider this great faith that comes through Jesus.

Consider the greatness of the power that is toward us when we believe!

Hebrews 10:35 - *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.*