

12 Women of Faith

“Who Believed God Could Do Anything”

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Sarah Laughed



“Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” Genesis 18:14
Read her story in Genesis 18:1-15

I love the story of Abraham and Sarah. Can you imagine getting pregnant at 90 years old? What is most amazing, not only did she get pregnant, her body, her looks changed for the younger. That is truly a miracle. I was so enjoying the story when the verse, “Is there anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14) jumped out at me. It was as if I was Sarah laughing to myself about the absurdity of seeing me pregnant at 90 years old and looking like a 25 year old. The next thing you know I found myself crying at the unbelief of years past and laughing over the expectation of what He will do in the future. Yes, there is truly nothing too hard for Him!

Tell about a time when God kept His promise to you and how your faith was strengthened.

This is the same wording the angel used when he spoke to Mary when visiting her with the announcement that she too would be overshadowed and conceive a child and His name would be called Jesus. “For with God, nothing shall be impossible.” (Luke 1:37) The word “**hard**” in the Hebrew means “wonderful or impossible.” This word “**impossible**” in Greek means, humanly speaking, this is impossible, that we are impotent, crippled so to speak, weak, not capable, not able. But there is nothing too hard for Him! In Micah 2:7 it say’s “is the Lord straitened?” I had to ask myself if I have restricted Him or put Him into a box? Maybe I backed off from “the word of promise”? (Romans 9:9)

Have you backed off of something that you were believing God for?

As far as Sarah she had received a promise long ago and when told that the word was about to be fulfilled she laughed! No one heard her laugh but in Genesis 18:12 “ Sarah laughed to herself, saying, after I have become aged shall I have pleasure and delight, my lord being old also? And the Lord asked Abraham, why did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I really bear a child when I am so old? Is anything too hard or too wonderful for the Lord?”

What amazes me about Sarah’s laugh is that she named her son Isaac which means “laughter.” And Sarah said, “God has made me to laugh: all who hear will laugh with me.” The very laugh she started

in unbelief becomes the laugh that brings the child of promise. I think we can all relate to Sarah. When we look back at our lives did we ever think we would actually be a Christ lover- a Christian? Did we ever think we could be as happy as this? So only one thing is needed here: that is for us to believe, and when we believe the child of promise will come! Can anything be too great of a miracle for Him to perform. It is time for a different laughter to come. Not one of doubt and unbelief but one of believing in the promises of God that have been spoken to us.

What are you believing God for this year? And what promise are you holding onto?

Jeremiah also was amazed by God, “Ah, Lord God behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched-out arm; and there is nothing too hard for Thee.” (Jeremiah 32:17) Look, from faith to the promise and from the promise to the “Promiser”, and yes, laugh with God as He performs in us His purpose! What we think is impossible, weak, without strength, not able or impotent, God takes and changes it into something beautiful. He makes all things new. Yes, He does!

What would it look like if God did “Immeasurably More” than you can imagine?

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*“For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age,
AT THE SET TIME
of which God had spoken to him.” Genesis 21:2*

“It is time to BELIEVE again for Greater Things!!!”

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 1: With God all things are possible.

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



Matthew 19:26

But Jesus looked at them and said,
“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

1} According to Matthew 19:26, what things are possible with God? All things.

Mark 11:22-24

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

2} According to Mark 11:22-24, what must we do to see the impossible come to pass? Believe, have faith in God.

Faith is supernatural. The phrase in Greek for “faith in God” in Mark 11:22-24 is *pistin theou*, which would make the phrase literally “**faith of God**” or “**faith from God**” in the sense of faith given by God for miracles. In other words, we are dependent upon God even to believe. (CM)

Mark 9:23

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “I often think of an old picture taken of me outside of our first church on Kawanee in Metairie. I was standing by our church sign, which had the scripture on it that says, “All things are possible to him that believes.” In those early days there was an incredible excitement and expectancy in our services, we knew great things were ahead of us. Our joy and faith were overflowing their banks. Faith is the supernatural ingredient that makes everything come alive, it is the supernatural deposit of God in our hearts. When His faith is present, no problem seems too big, and no challenge seems too extreme. The Lord is sufficient in every circumstance.”

3} Is there anything too hard for the Lord? Nothing is impossible for our God.

He is the God that opened Sarah’s womb and quickened Abraham’s body in order to bring forth a child. He gave the word of promise to Sarah and it was as good as done. Timing was just the issue. If

God said it, then it is done. There truly is nothing too difficult for our God. He is the God that parted the Red Sea. He is the God that raised Lazarus from the dead, that healed blind Bartimaeus, that delivered the Gadarene demoniac, and the list is endless. The Spirit of the Lord will not be restricted from accomplishing His will. (CM)

Genesis 18:14 (see also Romans 9:9)

Is anything too hard for the **LORD**? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Jeremiah 32:27

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. *Is there anything too hard for Me?*”

Micah 2:7a

You who are named the house of Jacob: “*Is the Spirit of the Lord restricted?*”

Luke 1:37

For with God nothing will be impossible.

4} Pastor Parris Bailey writes, “Look, from faith to the promise and from the promise to the “Promiser,” and yes, laugh with God as He performs in us His purpose!”

If we have our eyes fixed on the impossible circumstance we face, then we may not believe. Peter did fine walking on the water when his eyes were fixed on Jesus. It was only when he began to observe the wind and the waves that he began to sink. There may be times when we cry out like the man in Mark 9:24, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Mark 9:23-24

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Hebrews 3:12

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “People tend to get a little technical or rigid when dealing with the topic of faith. In this somewhat disturbing scripture we learn that unbelief flows out of an evil heart. At first glance that may seem a little harsh, but is it? Most of us think of unbelief as not any big deal, we just need more faith. The Lord says that unbelief is actually the fruit of a heart separated from God. Faith as a direct result of having a deep, personal relationship with The Lord. Think about it, who do you trust? Do you trust complete strangers? Of course not. You have

faith in the people you really know, the people who have gained your trust through relationship and through their behavior over the years. When we apply this same truth to the Lord, our faith grows out of our relationship with Him. The deeper we move into the life of intimacy, the more our faith is strengthened. So, rather than unbelief flowing out of an evil heart, we have faith flowing out of a pure heart, a heart purified by His blood and renewed by His Spirit. (The Bailey Drink, September 1, 2013)

(The 12 “Believe” extra weekly lessons included in this 12 Women of Faith Series, were written and compiled by Pastor Chris Monnerjahn.)

Rebekah



“Never, Never Shoot Your Camels”

“And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.” Genesis 24:63

Read her story in Genesis 24

Growing up I was known as the little red head girl named Parris with the birthmark on her hand, glasses and buckteeth. The clothes that I wore were handmade, the house I grew up in was simple. Life has been good but it has had its challenges. Pregnant at 14, parents divorced, married at 16, pastoring at 21, church buildings built, kids raised, precious people who have come and gone and now grandchildren, life has been an adventure to say the least. So today as I look back, even though my name is still Parris and the last time I looked my birthmark is still there along with my reddish hair, my teeth seem to look better but most of all He has made me accepted in the beloved. Everything that I have experienced brought me to the destiny and purpose God had ordained for my life.

What is your story?

There is a great story in the 34th chapter of Genesis. It’s the story of redemption, of Christ meeting His bride, it is the story of Isaac and Rebekah. The chapter starts out with Abraham telling his servant to find a wife for Isaac and in order to do that the servant must go back to Abraham’s distant relatives. We know the OT is full of types and shadows and it becomes quite clear that the servant whose name is never mentioned takes on the role of the Holy Spirit. The servant takes off with 10 camels bearing gifts and says a prayer asking God to lead him to Isaac’s wife. He comes to a well where he finds Rebekah and she begins to water all his camels. When he finds out that she is related to Abraham he begins to adorn her with all kinds of precious gifts. Gold, which always means divinity, silver for redemption and he gave raiment symbolizing spiritual covering. Little did Rebekah know that day at the well as she watered those 10 camels that her life would drastically change. The chapter closes with Rebekah riding the camels to her Isaac. Rebekah goes on to have Jacob who in turn has the 12 sons that create the Jewish nation. Thank God she didn’t shoot those camels!

Where did the servant find Rebekah? What was she doing there? And how is this a picture of the church?

So today I need to recognize the camels when they come into my life. Camels are nasty, smelly, awkward and have a hellacious appetite for water but in the end those very camels will take me to my Isaac. He is able to make all grace abound in my life giving me sufficiency in all things that I may have abundance for every good work.(2 Cor.9:8) Camels come in all sorts of ways, the families we are raised in, the situations we find ourselves in, and what others bring to us. When I learn to let God have his sovereign sway in my life, I learn to ride the camels that could have offended me.

So Ride em cowboy! Giddy up!

What “camels” have come your way?

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*“And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, **the camels were coming.** Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, “Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?”*

The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took a veil and covered herself.

And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her.” Genesis 24:63-67

“Don’t shoot your camels, they are bringing you to your place of destiny. Lord give me EYES OF FAITH to see the camels You have sent to bring me to YOU!”

(Lesson above compiled and revised from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 2: *What is Faith?*

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1} What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (Amplified)

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Several years ago I began to alter what I would say is my definition of faith. I used to think faith was based on my response to God’s Word. Today, I don’t think it is quite that simple. There is a little thing called human depravity that seems to get in the way. We all have good intentions. We will just leave it at that. Our good intentions never seem to take us far enough. Today I believe faith is actually initiated in heaven. The Lord opens the eyes of my heart to His glorious grace. Suddenly, I am no longer blind. My eyes can see, my ears can hear, and I can actually respond to His Word in faith.”

2} According to Hebrews 11:3 below, by faith we do what? Understand.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “‘By faith we understand,’ is a powerful description or glimpse into the amazing world of faith. You see faith is not blind but is actually quite the opposite. Faith is the divine influence on our heart that opens our perception of the spiritual realm. Faith actually opens our spiritual eyes so that God’s world becomes real to us. Not only does the Lord become real, He becomes quite attractive to us. As King Solomon said, ‘He is altogether lovely’. You see, this is the true litmus test, has your heart been affected by the reality of God’s kingdom? As Wesley said, has your heart been ‘strangely warmed’? Faith actually ignites our passion for God, this becomes the engine that drives our lives.”

3} What must we believe in? What must we have faith in? What must we do? .

According to John 6:29, we are to believe in Christ. We are to believe that God is able and willing to bring us into a place of faith, into a place of receiving all He has to reveal to us. The only possible way to please God is to have faith in Him. (CM)

John 6:28-29

28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “How does someone please God? Hebrews says that without faith it is impossible to please God. That leaves fallen man in quite a dilemma. Faith comes from God, it is impossible for fallen man to display Bible Faith. Faith is a gift. Then how can a lost person be saved? That's where grace comes in. Grace is not a license to sin, far from it. Grace is the effect of God on our heart that begins to awaken faith. That's what makes grace so amazing, it is all of God.”

4} How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith comes as a gift of God, for He has dealt each a measure of faith. He is the author and finisher of our faith.

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

5} What kind of life has God called us to? God has called us to live a life of faith.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Hebrews 4:2

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

6} How do we receive anything from God? We believe. It is all by faith. We get saved by faith. We get healed by faith. We get baptized in water and in the Spirit by faith. We get set free by faith. We serve others by faith. All that we do is to be done by faith for the Glory of God. (CM)

Matthew 9:22

But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Matthew 9:29

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

James 2:20

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Pastor Frank writes, “Paul called faith a substance. It is actually touching the reality of the unseen world. Don’t you realize that there is an invisible world that most people are unaware of? Faith perceives that alternate reality. Faith doesn’t bring things into existence, God does. Faith just makes it real to us. We get saved by faith, we are freed from the shackles of sinful behavior by faith, and we can even be delivered from addictions by the power of faith in God. It actually touches the realm of the supernatural, where all things become possible.”

Rahab



“Believed in the God who Saves...”

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,”

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

Read her story in Joshua 2 and 6:20-25

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Did you know that God’s ways are not your ways. We think that the Lord would want to save important people, smart people, or talented people to use for His purposes. More often than not, as Paul says, “God chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.” Kathryn Kuhlman often spoke about herself as someone born without talent. She always said that The Lord was not after “golden vessels or silver vessels” He was only looking for “yielded vessels.” That puts a whole new spin on things. When The Lord uses anyone for His purposes, He receives more glory depending on the weakness of the vessel. As far as He is concerned, the weaker the better.”

Why has God chosen to use the foolish and the weak things of this world to work through? (see I Corinthians 1:29)

Rahab was one of those who you would call the “foolish things” of the world. She was a harlot, a prostitute, a woman of the night. Her name in the Hebrew means “broad”. In Matthew 7:13 it says, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.” Rahab, because of bad choices had found herself on that broad path. But in the course of time there must have been a heart change that caused her life to go in a different direction. We don’t quite know how she came to be a believer, but through her actions her faith was made evident.

The Bible says that Rahab had heard of the God of the Israelites. How do we receive saving faith? (see Joshua 2:9-13 and Romans 10:17)

She hid the spies under a pile of flax and at the appointed time let the spies down in a basket tied to a scarlet rope. (Joshua 2:6,15,18) The Bible says in Proverbs 31 that the “virtuous woman” selects wool and flax and works with eager hands (vs.13). Seeing that there were piles of flax on her roof, obviously the “scandalous” Rahab at some point had a career change. She began to walk a new and better way. Maybe you feel that the decisions of the past have marked you. That the Lord will not use you because

of the mistakes you have made. But through the example of Rahab's rope holding story we learn what is written in Isaiah 42:3 is true a "bruised reed He will not break and a smoking flax He will not quench." You may be bruised but He repairs the broken hearted and sings His song through them. He breathes His breath on those smoldering embers until they become a flame that can't be contained and made into a light set on a hill that cannot be hidden. (KB)

What rope are you holding onto? (see Joshua 2:13,18)

Oh yes He still chooses the foolish things and the weak things to accomplish His work. Who would have thought that through Rahab not only would she be saved, set free and forgiven but the greater story is that her family was also. Pastor Frank continues, "Natural wisdom or natural good works have no benefit in the kingdom of God. The only wisdom or righteousness that is acceptable before God is the wisdom of God and the righteousness of Christ which can only be received by faith. Think of some of the people God used in the Bible; Moses the stutterer, Amos the farmer, Peter the fisherman, Rahab the harlot, and Paul the persecutor of Christians. These don't sound like the most promising candidates for success in life, but they were chosen of God. Maybe there is hope for us after all." Your past is the past, your sins have been forgiven you are free to go tell the world of His matchless grace and love. No telling what God plans to accomplish through your life. Rahab ended up marrying a prince in the line of the tribe of Judah and she is in the lineage of Jesus Christ Himself. She is also honored to be listed in the great Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. Talk about Redemption!

When Rahab asked the spies to spare her family, what is this a picture of? (Joshua 2:13; Acts 16:31; Acts 2:38-29) Who ended up being saved as a result of Rahab's intercession? (see Joshua 6:22-25; Psalm 103:17)

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

"And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." Joshua 6:25

"Rahab- Saved, Set Free, Forgiven, Made Righteous, Sanctified. Who would have thought God could use a girl like her? There is hope for me!"

(Lesson by Pastor Karen Boudreaux which includes excerpts from the writings of Pastor Frank Bailey)

Week 3: Confess and Believe- "Freedom from Sin"

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1} How do we receive salvation and forgiveness of sins? We must believe. Salvation and forgiveness of our sins come through faith.

Romans 10:8-11

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Acts 16:31

So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2} How do we receive righteousness? We must believe. We receive God’s righteousness by faith. Read the following verses and discuss how we are made righteous and what promises are available to us as a result of the imparted or imputed righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Romans 4:7-8

7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”

Proverbs 12:28

In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

Psalms 92:12-14

12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

3} How do we receive Freedom? We must believe. Our freedom was purchased by Christ at Calvary. Just like salvation and righteousness, we receive our freedom by faith. Read and discuss the following scriptures and commentary regarding the freedom of God. It is time to take God at His word and receive the freedom that is ours in Christ. (CM)

Romans 6:22

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Romans 8:15-16

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

4} How are we sanctified? We must believe. We are sanctified by the Spirit and faith in the truth. We are changed by the working of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God. (CM)

2 Thessalonians 2:13b

...God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

1 Thessalonians 5:23

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

Romans 6:22 (NASB)

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25 (Amplified)

Therefore He is able also to save forever (completely, perfectly, for eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede and intervene on their behalf [with God].

Regarding Hebrews 7:25 Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “He is able to save us to the uttermost. The Greek word is *panteles*. It has the connotation of perfectly, completely, and perpetually. I love the shades of

meaning in this verse in the Amplified Bible. Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity)... How can Christ do this for us? This verse goes on to say that “He ever liveth to make intercession”. He is praying for me and representing me before the Father. He is saving me to the uttermost.”

The Woman with the Issue of Blood



“Touch or Touched”

*“And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, **If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.** And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” Mark 5:25-34*

Read her story in Mark 5:21-43 also in Matthew 9:18–26 and Luke 8:40–56

There is a difference between a touch and a touch. The disciples got a bit annoyed with Jesus that day, when He asked who had touched Him. They answered back, “The multitude is thronging Thee.” The verb used is *sunthlibō* which means “to press hard.” It is used of the pressing of grapes in the making of wine by crushing them. The Bible also implies that the crowd was suffocating them. They wanted to just get through the crowd and were hoping that Jesus could just leave well enough alone. But He perceived that virtue or power had gone out of Him so much that it overcame a present existence to effect a change. He began to look about Him, “Who was the one that touched Me on My clothes?”

Have you ever been so “hard pressed” that you “pressed hard” to get to Jesus?

The women felt something different start to take place in her body. The word used for her bleeding, was fountain. Can you imagine walking around with a flowing fountain for twelve years? No wonder she had spent all she had looking for a remedy. When she touched Him she felt by experience that the fountain had finally dried up.

The women finally came forward. I love the words, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace and be whole of thy plague.” He gave her the promise. He was telling her to go in peace, that she would no longer be tormented of this plague (which also means to whip, scourge or misfortune). She was healed in her spirit, soul and body and that continually. When Christ power touches our lives, we are healed not only physically but in our soul and spirit. This woman faced much more than just physical sickness. She needed to be made whole-totally and continually.

In the Bible when a woman had “an issue of blood” she was cut off from everyone, including her family. This woman had an issue for 12 years. Imagine the toll this took on her not only physically but emotionally. Name some different ways, besides physical that this woman was healed?

I believe it is the same today. While the world crushes in, who is actually touching Jesus? What a difference a touch can be! He can dry up your fountain of depression, disease and despair. It's time to get out of the things that suffocate you and press into the only one that can set you free. This woman was at the end of her rope and we should all thank God that she got to the place of desperation. She pushed through the ordinary touch into the extraordinary. Others had been touching Him or should I say crushing Him all along. How has your touch been lately? Reach out to Him today, He has everything that you have need of. Touch Him and you will never be the same! The whippings, the scourgings and the misfortune can come to an end. All it takes is just one touch!

In what ways can we press in to touch Him?

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

“And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.” Mark 5:29

Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole!

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 4: *Your Faith Has Made You Well*

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



Jeremiah 30:17a

‘For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,’
says the Lord

1} What does God’s word say concerning health and healing?

Jeremiah 33:6

Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.

Exodus 23:25

“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

Psalms 41:3

The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

Exodus 15:26

and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.”

Psalms 107:20-21

20 He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. 21 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

3 John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Psalms 103:2-4

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies,

Psalm 91:14-16

14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

2} Is supernatural healing possible today? Yes, it is because Jesus has not changed.

Matthew 9:35

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Pastor Frank writes, “Everywhere Jesus ministered, He ministered healing to the sick and deliverance to those bound by the enemy. The apostles followed in His steps after the Lord’s death, signs and wonders were a major part of that first Pentecostal outpouring.”

...Jesus is still touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He is moved by what moves you. Are you hurting today? Are you suffering from some sickness or injury? Jesus is still the same today, His power hasn’t diminished, His will hasn’t changed, His compassions and mercies are still new every morning. As soon as the need of healing arises, Jesus is there to meet the need. How can you receive your healing? It is very simple, come to Him as a child. Look to Him, ask Him to touch you. Seek Him in His word, press into Him in prayer, get in a church where the power of God is welcome and moving; before you know it, you will be experiencing the healing power of The Lord.” (The Bailey Drink, July 21, 2013)

3} What role does faith play in receiving healing? Let’s look at the woman with the issue of blood for some insight.

Mark 5:25-28

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”

She had touched the anointing by faith and received her miracle. Her faith was active. She reached out and touched the hem of his garment, expecting to receive her healing, and power went into her that

healed her body. When we find ourselves facing sickness and disease we need to put ourselves near Jesus and reach out and touch him, expecting to receive. For with God, nothing is impossible. We need to say like the woman, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” Healing is His will and is part of our inheritance.

4} What role does understanding authority and faith for healing play in receiving our healing? Let’s look at the story of the faith of the Roman Centurion for some insight.

Matthew 8:5-10,13

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” 7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Pastor Frank writes, “Christ displayed this authority over creation during His earthly ministry....This centurion understood authority. He commanded his soldiers by delegated authority from Rome. He recognized the spiritual authority when He was confronted with Christ. He knew that sickness and disease had to obey His powerful words. What kind of challenge are you facing today? Are you struggling with sickness? Does it seem everything is against you? Like the centurion, it is time to come bow down before Jesus. Recognize the power and authority in His word. Call out to Him. Don't be surprised when you hear Him respond, ‘I will come and heal you’.” (The Bailey Drink, July 11, 2014)

5} Who is our healer? Christ is our Healer. Healing is provided for in the wounds of Christ. We were healed as a result of the beatings that Christ suffered. See 1 Peter 2:24. We can be healed by faith in His name. See Acts 3:16. Our bodies can be quickened by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. See Romans 8:11. A river of life, the Spirit of God, proceeds from Christ that has healing power for us. See Revelations 22:1-2. There is healing virtue that radiates from Christ. Complete healing and wholeness is available for us in Christ. He wants to heal your spirit, soul, and body. See Malachi 4:2. (CM)

1 Peter 2:24

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

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.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Revelation 22:1-2

22 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Malachi 4:2

But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.

Pastor Frank writes, “This is one of the beautiful prophetic pictures of Christ in the Old Testament....All of us have been wounded and damaged by the effects of sin. From the original sin nature that has crippled our will, to our own personal sinful behavior that has wounded us in so many ways; we all stand in dire need of the healing beams of Jesus to flow over us. I often think of what it might have been like to be in one of the Lord’s services. I imagine myself pushing through the crowd to get closer to the warmth of His healing presence. Basking in His presence, healing would flow through my whole being; my spirit, soul, and body would receive those healing rays. Here is the good news! Christ is still the Sun of Righteousness, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, His healing beams are flowing out today to whosoever will. Maybe it’s time to bask in the Sun for a little while”. (The Bailey Drink, March 22, 2015)

6} How can the power of death be overcome? The power of death can even be overcome by faith.

John 11:40

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” (What He said when Lazarus was raised from the dead.)

7} What should be a Christian's response when they find themselves or someone else sick? Know that God's will is healing. Stand on the Word of God. Hold fast to His Promises. Confess the Word. Lay hands on the sick and anoint them with oil.

James 5:14-15

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

The Shunammite Woman



“There is Oil in the Cupboard”

“And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.” 2 Kings 4:2-4

Read her story in 2 Kings 4:1-7

Sometimes life happens. Unexpectedly we find ourselves jobless, or fighting a terrible disease, or suffering the loss of a loved one. This woman in 2 Kings found herself without her husband, and now the creditors were coming to take away her two sons. Her life as she knew it, was changed **suddenly** and she found herself at the edge of the precipice. What I like about this story is that she had had that oil in the cupboard all along. There it sat, ever so still and unnoticed, till now. In fact, when her husband was around there never was a reason to go in that cupboard and pull out the oil, he always had taken care of everything. He paid the bills, saw to the repairs at the house and the sons. They were quite a team, him and her, that is... until he died. She found herself spinning out of control. She didn't see this one coming and was unprepared. How could God do this to her? But there sat the oil unnoticed and shut up in the cupboard.

Have you ever found yourself suddenly in a place of great need?

“Tell me, what do you have in the house”? Elisha asked her. Her answer says it all, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house.....but a jar of oil.” That’s how she wrapped up her life. She had nothing left in her to give, nothing left to sell, nothing left to hope for.

I like to compare this story with the feeding of the 5,000 when Jesus said to Phillip; “You give them something to eat.” The widow and Phillip both had one thing in common, both were looking at what they didn't have instead of what they had all along. Phillip and the widow both had seen miracles that Jesus and Elisha did. She never saw the jar of oil for what it was. Phillip had never seen Jesus for what He was. A.B. Simpson says, “So many have the Holy Ghost confined in a little pot of oil and hidden away on the shelf of a cabinet. God wants us to go out into all the needs of life, and pour that divine fullness into every vessel that comes to us, until our whole life shall be a living embodiment and illustration of the all-sufficiency of Christ.”

How are we like the jar of oil in the cupboard? (see 2 Corinthians 4:7) Who does the “Oil” in our earthen vessels represent? (see 1 Corinthians 1:21-22)

It was time for the both of them to pour, and to keep pouring, to take the precious anointing and use it, not just for ourselves, but for the multitudes. “Go borrow vessels for the oil that is multiplied shall not stop as long as there are vessels to receive!”

In what ways can we pour into other vessels?

Like the widow’s pot of oil that flowed out into every vessel, so the presence of God touches everything that comes into our life, and we find that all things work together for good to us if we love God and fulfill His purpose. She opened her cupboard and used the oil to not only meet her needs but she learned the most important lesson of all. God was her source, not her husband, her children nor even Elisha. Have you looked into your cupboard lately? The jar of oil, the boy’s lunch is just what the Holy Spirit uses to overflow into our lives and others. What’s in your house?

As long as we keep pouring into empty vessels, what will happen to the oil in our own vessels? (see 2 Kings 4:6)

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

“What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?” 2 Kings 4:2

The Shunammite learned the secret of being a Giver...

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 5: That You May Prosper

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

3 John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

1} What is God's will concerning provision?

According to 3 John 2, God's will for us is that we would prosper in all things just as our soul prospers. It is God's desire for us not to live in a perpetual state of lack. He wants His children to have what they need and more. Read Matthew 6:25-34. According to this passage, God does not want us anxious about our basic needs. He wants us to trust Him, to seek Him and His Righteousness first, before all else. As a result, all of our needs shall be provided for. If we are His children, that seek Him first, that walk uprightly, that have a healthy fear of the Lord, then God promises that we shall not want, for God will not withhold any good thing. This is the Word of the Lord to you. (CM)

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalms 34:9

Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

Psalms 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

2} Is poverty God's will for our lives?

Poverty is not God's will for our lives. It is not a religious virtue. Taking a vow of poverty is not a biblical principle. Poverty entered into the world as a result of sin. See Genesis 3:17-19 which shows the curse pronounced as a result of disobedience. The ground now produces thorns and thistles and man has to toil and sweat for his basic needs. The good news is that we have been redeemed from the curse by the work of Christ. See Galatians 3:13-14. The crown of thorns placed on his head speaks to us that he has taken our poverty upon Himself. Not only has He died for our sins and sicknesses, but He has redeemed us from the curse of poverty. (CM)

Genesis 3:17-19

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,

and you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

Galatians 3:13-14

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

3} What does God say about money?

Is money the root of all evil or is the love of money the root of all evil? How we handle our money reveals what is going on in our heart.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Deuteronomy 8:18

“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Money is simply a tool that is used to acquire things. It is not evil or good. Our heart is either evil or made good in Christ. God wants to bless us so we can be a blessing. Money is required to live and to advance the Kingdom of God in this life. It is needed. God is able to amply supply all our needs. The issue is not if we have money and lots of it, the issue is if the “money has us.” We cannot serve both God and money. He wants to bless His children but He also does not want us to be controlled by

money. The more faithful we are with His provision, the more He will increase us. How do I know if I am being faithful with His Provision of finances and talents? Faithfulness with finances and talents involves: not going into debt and living beyond your means, giving to your local church the tithe (10%) of all your income (increase), giving to God-honoring causes (missions, restorations centers, bible translations, etc.) offerings as the Lord directs you, and being hard working at your job. If we do these things, you will have more than enough for you, your household, and every good work. Since God's will for our life is to be blessed, why do so many believers live in lack?

Things that hinder God's provision in our lives: Not being a tither; Not being generous; Not caring for the poor; Not working hard; Not honoring God with our possessions; Living beyond our means – accumulating debt. (CM)

4} How do we receive God's provision and prosperity? Believe

We trust and honor God. When we give, we demonstrate our faith in God and His word concerning our finances. We work hard, doing all things as unto the Lord. We work to bring Him glory. We work to advance His kingdom when we are tithers and givers of offerings. (CM)

Proverbs 28:25-26

25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered. 26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

Proverbs 3:5-10

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Proverbs 10:4

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

5} What are God's principles of increase? How does God prosper His children?

As you look at the following scriptures and commentary you will notice that his promises of provision and prosperity are conditional in nature. In other words, a condition must be met in order for us to receive the promise. All of these conditions are demonstrations of our faith. They show God, us, and others that we believe. What we say alone concerning what we believe is not as important as what our actions say about what we believe. (CM)

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Proverbs 11:24-25

24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Malachi 3:10-12

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” Says the Lord of hosts; 12 “And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.

Tithing is an important part of a Christian’s walk with God. In the same way that Christians are expected to pray, read our Bible, and attend church we are also expected to tithe. According to Leviticus 27:30, the tithe belongs to the Lord and it is holy. That is why in Malachi, God says that His children were robbing Him. The tithe belonged to God, but they were keeping it for themselves and thus robbed Him. The origin of the tithe pre-dates the Law and is first seen in Genesis 14:18-20 when Abraham gives a tithe to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. The literal definition of the word tithe is “a tenth part.” (CM)

Genesis 14:18-20 (see also Hebrews 7:1-2)

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a title of all.

As we are in financial partnership with God, there are significant benefits that become ours. Look at the blessings of obedience see Deuteronomy 28:2-13.

Philippians 4:15; 17-19

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ...19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

According to a word study done on the word “supply” in Philippians 4:19 by Evangelist Dick Mills, if I am in financial partnership with God, He will “cram a net for you, fill up the hallow or empty spaces, fill up every deficiency that you have, satiate you, fill you to the full, give you more than enough, cause you to be fully satisfied, bestow upon you in a lavish, magnificent way, cause you to abound, fully supply, liberally supply, amply supply, gloriously supply, and give you all that you need.”

6} Read and discuss the following additional promises for us to hold onto as we trust God for His provision and His prosperity.

Proverbs 11:24-25

24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

Proverbs 13:22

22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

Proverbs 8:18-21

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. 20 I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, 21 that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

Psalm 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.

Hannah



“Asked of God”

“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life...”

I Samuel 1:10-11

Read her story in I Samuel 1:1-28

Hannah had a situation, which she could not solve, through anything she could do in the natural. So Hannah prayed...Spurgeon says “Our praying is the shadow of God’s giving. When He is about to bestow a blessing He first of all works in us earnest prayer for it.” Each of us have impossible situations that we are believing God for. Perhaps you desire a child or need physical healing but physicians have told you that is not possible in the natural. Your marriage is on the brink of disaster or you have children and family members that need to be saved... the list goes on and on. Hannah found her answer as she “asked of God”. (KB)

What seemingly impossible situation are you praying for a miracle from God?

This is our high duty and privilege. Can you pray, my brother, my sister? If you know how to pray, you can move heaven and earth. If you pray, then you can set almighty forces in operation. Spurgeon goes onto say, “You can suffer no need, for everlasting supplies await the hand of prayer: “Ask, and it shall be given you.” You cannot miss your way, for you shall be guided in answer to prayer. You shall hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” Believe in God, and you will prevail with God. Believe in His promise, and plead it. Believe in His Spirit, and pray by His help. Believe in Jesus, who makes intercession; for through Him you may come boldly to the throne of grace. Faith alone can confirm feeble knees. “According to your faith be it unto you.” To pray without faith is formality; nay, it is vanity. To be weak in prayer is a disease which will bring on many other maladies. Seek faith to become Masters of the Art of prayer. I would rather be Master of the Art of prayer than M.A. of both universities. He who knows how to pray has His hand on a leverage which moves the universe. But there is no praying without believing. If thou believest not, thou mayest be heard – it is more than I can promise thee; but if thou believest, thou shalt be heard, for God refuses no believing prayer. To refuse to keep His own promise when it is pleaded would be to falsify His word, and change His character; and neither of these things can ever be. Have thou strong confidence: “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Jesus said, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your

Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?” Believe in prayer, and you will pray believing. He is such a faithful God!”

What does the Bible say about the importance of not only praying but “believing” as well? (see Mark 11:24)

The Bible says that Hannah continued to pray, and poured out her spirit before the Lord. That day in the temple Eli the priest saw her and thought she had been drinking. She said she hadn’t been but praying. Eli told her to “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.” (1 Samuel 1:7) And from that moment on the Bible says her face was no longer sad. It was at that moment she **“believed”** that the “impossible” was now “possible” for the Lord had heard her prayers, faith arose in her heart. The Bible says in 1 Samuel 1:19-20, “and the Lord remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked for him from the Lord.” (KB)

Samuel means “Asked of God”. What have you “asked of God” in secret? And what prayers have you seen the fulfillment of openly?

Hannah made a vow to the Lord when she prayed. What was that vow and did she keep it? (see 1 Samuel 1:11; 1:24-28)

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.” 1 Samuel 1:27

“Hannah learned the importance of Praying and Believing!”

(Lesson above compiled and revised from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 6: Praying and Believing

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1} What are Christians called to?

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer, a life of communion and intimacy with God.

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing,

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

James 4:8a

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

2} Since we know that the will of God for us is prayer, does it matter how we pray?

Hebrews 10:19-23

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Mark 11:22-24

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

John 16:23

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

John 14:13-15

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

3} Does God really hear us when we pray?

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Proverbs 15:29

The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

4} What do you do when you are not sure what or how to pray?

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:34

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Intercessory prayer is quite amazing. Bringing someone before the Lord in prayer is a key part of our ministry as priests to the Lord. Intercession is supernatural from start to finish. First, the Lord puts something or someone on our heart. You may think it is just concern or even worry, when it is actually the compassion and mercy of the Lord. As we yield to these urgings and begin to pray, the Lord anoints us on what and how to pray. We obviously only know in part, especially when it comes to the heart and circumstances of someone else. As we pour our heart out in this intercession, the Father hears our cry and responds. He initiated the desire to pray, He formulated the prayer itself in our yielded heart, and He heard and answered the prayer.”

1 Corinthians 14:13-15

13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Jude 1:20

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “This short verse is powerful, it reminds us that effective prayer is birthed and energized by the Spirit. All of us have been bored and disillusioned by what we may call prayer, but many times, what we call prayer, has been just an exercise in human futility. All sorts of people pray, the Buddhist prays, the Hindu prays, the Muslim prays, and even new age groups engage in some form of prayer. This may sound narrow minded to some, but all of those prayers are a waste of time. Why are they a waste of time? They are just men trying to reach God in their own wisdom and effort. True prayer has to be birthed by the wisdom and the power of God. Effective prayer is based on the Word of God and empowered by the Spirit of God.”

5} What is the Prayer of Agreement in Matthew 18:19-20?

Matthew 18:19-20

19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “He was not only talking about praying for something together, He was speaking of a spiritual bond or harmony that would bring tremendous results. Dick Mills brings more clarity with his definition of this word agreement that Jesus spoke about.

‘agree, sumphoneo (soom-foe-neh-oh); Strong's #4856: From sum, "together," and phoneo, "to sound." Sumphoneo is to sound together, be in accord, be in harmony. The word "symphony" comes from sumphoneo. Metaphorically, the word means to agree together in prayer that is concordant.’

That is powerful, the word agree comes from the greek word symphoneo. Obviously it is a musical term describing many musical instruments playing different parts harmonizing in one beautiful song. There is a place of agreement and harmony in the Spirit that produces unlimited results. These results consist in several things. The first is answered prayer. Harmony produces selfless, kingdom prayers that will surely come to pass. Secondly, bondages are broken. There is power over all the works of the enemy in our harmonious prayer. Finally, and best of all, Christ is present in that kind of prayer. That is what Pentecost was, 120 people in spiritual agreement, the results was the power of His presence and the heavenly song.” (The Bailey Drink, April 17, 2015)

6} Does prayer change things? Yes, prayer is effective. Prayer changes things in the natural world and prayer changes us.

James 5:16-18

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Psalms 138:3

In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul.

Mark 11:25-26

25 “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

7} What does prayer display? Prayer displays our total dependency upon God. We wait on God in prayer.

Psalm 62:1

Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “At the end of the day, prayer can be reduced to waiting on God. After we get past all of our requests and troubles we find ourselves in the place of total dependency. Total dependency, I like the sound of that. It takes matters out of my hands and places them where they belong, in the hands of God. If you think about it, why does the Lord need my prayers? He knows everything that is going on, even my secret thoughts. Prayer is for my benefit. Prayer recognizes total dependency and opens me up to the greatest of all answered prayers; intimacy with God Himself.”

Lois and Eunice



“Fanning into Flame”

“I am reminded of your sincere (unfeigned) faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,”
2 Timothy 1:5-6

Read their story in 2 Timothy 1:1-6; Acts 16:1

Lois and Eunice were the grandmother and mother of Timothy. They were women who believed and had great faith. Whatever got into them seemed to get all over Timothy. When you are touched by the fire of God it can't help but affect your children and others that are around you. It was once said of Susanna Wesley that she prayed that the fire she started in her home and in her children would light all of England ablaze. Her sons John and Charles would become two of the most influential men of God of all times. But how can we set a flame if we are not burning ourselves. We like Lois and Eunice must be filled with the Holy Spirit. (KB)

How do we know that Eunice taught Timothy the Word of God from a young age and that it impacted his life? (see 2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “In Acts 2:3,4 it says “And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “I am persuaded that the greatest sign of the last days is totally overlooked and even shunned by the Christian Church. You speak of the end times and thoughts of wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines and signs in the heavens immediately come to mind. No one even mentions the sign that was the subject of Peter’s sermon on that first Pentecostal Sunday. The very focus of the great ‘this is that’ sermon was the gift of the heavenly language....What would prove to be our greatest weapon to win the most souls has been put aside as something unimportant or even irrelevant to this world’s culture.”

History records that after Pentecost the world was turn upside down as a result of the 120 people in the upper room being filled with the Holy Spirit. The flame that came down upon them caught like wild fire as it spread onto the streets of Jerusalem that day. If we want that to happen in our own families and in our own city, what do you think should be the focus of the church today?

Here are some words from the 1800’s by Maclaren on the fire of God. “I believe that one of the chief

wants of the Christian Church of this generation is more of the fire of God! We are all icebergs compared with what we ought to be. Look at yourselves; never mind about your brethren. Let each of us look at his own heart, and say whether there is any trace in his Christianity of the power of that Spirit who is fire. Is our religion flame or ice? Where among us are to be found lives blazing with enthusiastic devotion and earnest love? Do not such words sound like mockery when applied to us? Have we not to listen to that solemn old warning that never loses its power, and, alas! seems never to lose its appropriateness: ‘Because thou art neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.’ We ought to be like the burning beings before God’s throne, the seraphim, the spirits that blaze and serve. We ought to be like God Himself, all aflame with love. Let us seek penitently for that Spirit of fire who will dwell in us all if we will.” Pastor Frank continues, “Lord, I don’t want to be an iceberg, make me one of your burning ones. I think the world is longing for passion. It wants to feel strongly about something. Why not let our passion be an unbridled fire for the Lord.”

I have a feeling that Timothy knew what Paul meant by Fanning into Flame. To get a smoldering fire to burn again you must begin to stir up and blow on the embers until the fire roars once more. Perhaps that is what his mother and grandmother did again and again, through their natural and supernatural prayers over him. Oh Lord let the fire ignited in our lives catch fire all around. (KB)

We know that what Lois and Eunice imparted (the Word and their prayers) to Timothy bore much fruit. What did Paul admonish Timothy to do with what was entrusted to him? And Who dwelt within Timothy to accomplish Paul’s request? (see 1 Timothy 6:20a; and 2 Timothy 1:14)

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing **from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:14-15*

“Lois and Eunice were believers filled with the Sprit of God. They impacted the world by joining together with each other in fanning into flame the gifts inside of a younger generation.”

(Lesson by Pastor Karen Boudreaux which includes excerpts from the writings of Pastor Frank Bailey)

Week 7: The Language of Faith

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

Jude 1:20

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

1} According to Jude 1:20, what happens when you pray in the Holy Spirit?

You are built up in the faith. You are edified. You are strengthened. So when you find yourself feeling weak or in need of strength, the Lord has a way for you to obtain strength and the help you need. Pray in your heavenly language. It is the gift of God that was given to endue us with power from on high, which is supernatural and endless in nature. (CM)

2} What other benefits come as a result of praying in the Spirit?

a. Power for ministry

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 10:38

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

b. Power to live for Christ and walking in the love of God

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

c. Power for prayer

Zechariah 12:10a

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

d. Intimacy with God

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (The Message)

If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him.

e. Guidance into truth, glorification of Christ, and revelation of the will of God

John 16:13-15

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. (NKJV)

3} Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues only for those in the Bible or is it for us also today? Is it God's will for all believers to pray in the heavenly language?

The answer to the first questions can be found in determining who does the baptizing. According to Luke 3:16 below, Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 13:8 goes on to say that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, if he was the baptizer in the Holy Spirit during the time of the book of Acts, Christ is still the baptizer with the Holy Spirit today. Our God has not changed.

Luke 3:16

16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The answer to the second question is “Yes.” God’s wants all believers to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Why would He not, in light of the benefits listed above? The promise is to you and to your children. He is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. Paul tells the church in Ephesus not to be drunk with wine but to be filled with the Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:16-17

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

Ephesians 5:18

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

4} Does being baptized with the Holy Spirit, result in speaking in tongues?

When we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we will receive the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues.

a. On the day of Pentecost, the 120 believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues. (Acts 2:4)

Acts 2:4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

“All” believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and “all” spoke in other tongues. The New Testament record clearly shows that being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues are connected together.

b. Eight years after Pentecost, the new converts in Samaria received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:12-19). Although tongues are not specifically mentioned, Simon saw supernatural evidence that the new converts had received the Holy Spirit.

c. Three days after Paul was born again, he received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17). Although tongues are not specifically mentioned, we know clearly from Scripture that he did speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:18)

d. Ten years after Pentecost, Cornelius and the Gentiles received the baptism in the Holy Spirit by hearing the preaching of the word, and they spoke in tongues. (Acts 10:44-46)

e. Twenty years after Pentecost, the believers in Ephesus received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6).

5} When is the last time you were filled with the Holy Spirit? When was the last time you prayed in the heavenly language? The Lord wants to fill you today. He wants to immerse you into his wonderful Spirit. He wants you to experience continual infillings of the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-19

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

See the scriptural examples below for how the Lord baptized the apostles and other disciples multiple times with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:8

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

Acts 4:29-31

29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

6} How does a believer get filled with the Holy Spirit? By Faith; you must ASK!

Luke 11:13

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Steps to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

- A. We repent and acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- B. We ask Jesus to baptize us with the Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit because we ask in faith.
- D. As an act of faith, we open our mouths and start speaking out the new language that God gives us.

Phebe, Priscilla and Lydia and other New Testament Women



“Impacting the world around you”

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

Romans 16:1-2

Throughout Scripture, we see the Lord using women in various capacities and degrees. Through their works and service they impacted many for the sake of the Gospel. Phebe was one such woman, Paul called her a “servant” in Romans 16:1. This word in the Greek “*diakinos*” means “minister”. Paul called himself that in Ephesians 3:7. He also calls her a “succourer” (helper) of many. This word in Thayers Greek Lexicon “*prostates*” means to set over, to rule, superintend, preside over, protect, care for... Paul says, that she was a **helper** (a succourer) a person who ruled over, presided over and cared for many including himself.

In Romans 16:3-5 we meet another woman named Priscilla. This Scripture says, “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my **helpers** in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the **church** that is in **their** house.” Priscilla and her husband Aquila had a business making tents but that didn’t stop them in sharing the Gospel with others. She worked side by side in ministry with her husband and even had a church in their home. Paul called them “helpers” (“prostates”) as well. Because of their devotion to the ministry a great part of Europe was evangelized.

Most people are not in full time ministry. Most have a job, a home to take care of and children to raise. But does that excuse you from sharing your faith and using the gifts giving to you by God to build up the church? (see Matthew 28:19,20)

In Acts 16:11-15 we learn about Lydia who was a business woman, she sold expensive fabric and had a very large home. Even though she was a business woman, she made it a priority to go down to the riverside and pray with other women. Beth Moore says, “Her professional life was balanced by the priorities of her spiritual life. She worshipped God. She gathered with other believers. She found a place of prayer vs. 13. She opened her home. (vs. 15) She made herself available to God. Because she did, “the Lord opened her heart to respond.” vs 14 and God impacted Europe through her as well.”

Lydia was not only a business woman, she also was a worshipper of God. What blessing happen in her own household as a result of her faith? (see Acts 16:15)

In Biblical times women were suppressed, behind veils and didn't have much of a say or a voice. ***But Jesus changed everything.*** To Martha, He said that Mary had chosen the best part and encouraged her to leave the kitchen so that she too could learn and worship at His feet along with her sister and the other disciples. Other New Testament women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna followed Jesus from city to city helping in the ministry. They used their connections and their substance (financially- see Luke 8:1-3) in the world and in the political arena to support Jesus as He spread the Gospel. He talked to the woman with the issue of blood and the woman at the well, which was unheard of at that time. Not to mention, it was to a woman at the garden tomb that He said, **"GO TELL"**.

What does the Bible say in Galatians 3:28?

“Jesus still calls woman to tell the story of His resurrection power, redemption, and how He frees people from their sins. He calls women to tell of His love and to share His Gospel today. He calls women to teach, preach the Good News and to minister. On that great day when the 120 were in the upper room, the Holy Spirit was poured out on ALL flesh, not just the men but women also. “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.” Acts 2:17,18 And so it is time to rise up and to take our place with these women who believed God and to begin to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit that flows through us to affect our world around us.

Where, you might ask? Maybe you could be like Phebe and become a helper, or like Priscilla and work side by side your husband not only in your business but in opening your home to share the gospel with your neighbors. Perhaps you are wealthy like Lydia, you could use your wealth to spread the Gospel, but that you too would take the time to go down to the riverside to pray with others, to strengthen, and encourage others to stand fast. Perhaps also, you will see your entire household baptized as a result like Lydia did. Or maybe you have a sorted past (like the woman at the well) and the Lord has set you free from a lifestyle of gross darkness. Start sharing your testimony to all who will listen, and you might be surprised how the Lord will use you to change a whole community as a result of your miraculous testimony. It is time to open our houses, and invite others into our private world and watch and see Him do a work in our days that will utterly astound us. It is time to join the Mary's of the world and Go Tell of His marvelous deeds.

Name some creative ways you can share your faith with others?

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“Phebe, Priscilla and Lydia along with other New Testament woman impacted their world around them through evangelizing their homes, their cities and the world.”

(Lesson above by Pastor Karen Boudreaux)

Week 8: Leading Others to Believe- Evangelism

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

1} What does John say about believers in the memory verse? That we have seen and testify.

We must first believe. Once we see Christ for who He is, we must testify and tell others who He is. Once we believe, God wants us to lead others to believe. Read the scriptures below and discuss what God's will is for those that believe. Once He has reconciled us to Himself, He makes and anoints us to be ambassadors for Christ that are ministers of reconciliation. We are called to implore others to be reconciled to God. We are salt and light. He who wins souls is wise. (CM)

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Proverbs 11:30b

...he who wins souls is wise.

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

2} How can we fulfill God’s commission to preach the gospel?

We must believe. We must be anointed with the Holy Spirit. We must “GO” by stepping out in faith.

John 14:12

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Luke 4:18-19

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 10:38

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

3} What do the following scriptures say regarding the harvest? The harvest is great and plentiful and ready to reap. What does the Lord say about the laborers required to perform the reaping of the harvest? They are few. What must we do then? We must pray for laborers.

Luke 10:2

Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

John 4:35

Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Psalm 2:8

Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Have you felt the pull of the Lord to win souls recently? I distinctly feel we are moving into a time of prophetic fulfillment in our world today. It's time for the laborers to come into the fields. It's time for this next generation to step up and enter into this time of harvest. Don't say harvest is still somewhere in the future, the fields are ripe. Today is the day. Today is your day!” (The Bailey Drink, September 25, 2015)

4} Does God really want to use you to win souls today? YES

Luke 5:1-11

1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

The Lord wants us to launch out into the deep and let down our nets for a catch. He has called us all to be fishers of men. He wants us to stop coming up with excuses and say like Peter did, “nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” We know what God's Word says. We know what He values. He values souls. Discuss in your small group what your group can do as a way to win souls the next time you meet. Maybe it will be a potluck, maybe a BBQ at someone's house, maybe a picnic at the park, and the list goes on. It's time to do what might seem foolish to the natural man and let down the net for a boat-sinking load of fish. The harvest is plentiful and people are ready. Let's believe and go! (CM)

Naomi and Ruth



“Where You Go, I Will Go”

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.” Ruth 1:16

(Read their story in the Book of Ruth 1-4)

“And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.” Ruth 2:2,3 Who doesn't love the story of Ruth the Moabitess that left everything behind to grab hold of the God of Naomi? She certainly didn't see gold or riches, or even a future going with Naomi but I believe she saw eternity.

Ruth made a decision to leave her past. She chose to follow Naomi to Bethel which means “the house of bread”. Who are you following to/or leading to the “House of Bread?”

Something supernatural got a hold of Ruth and lead her to Bethlehem which means “the house of Bread”. Even when they both returned to Bethlehem the Scripture said, “And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty.” Have you ever been at a place that you feel this way? Things were going so well but either you took a wrong turn or bad news arrived at your door unexpectedly. But for Ruth, whatever she was leaving behind was not enough to keep her there. Despite what Ruth saw Naomi lose, it was still more than what Ruth ever had.” Ruth believed for a better future and made Naomi's God her own. Naomi may have been bitter but she was smart enough to go back to the house of bread and to take Ruth with her. Little did she know that through Ruth restoration and recovery would happen.

Naomi and her husband made a huge mistake by uprooting their family from the “house of bread” and move to Moab (which means “place of desolation”). Why did Naomi chose to return to Bethel? (see Ruth 1:6,7;19) How does this apply to our lives today?

The Bible says that Ruth “gleaned in the field after the reapers; and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging to Boaz...” Ruth 2:2,3 Matthew Henry writes, “Let us always keep us good thoughts of the divine providence, and believe that while we do well it will do well for us. And it did well for Ruth; for when she went out alone, without guide or companion, to glean, her hap was to light on the field of Boaz. She knew not whose field it was, nor had she any reason for going to that more than any other, and therefore it is said to be her hap; but Providence directed her steps to this field. God wisely orders small events; and many a great affair is brought about by a little turn, which seemed fortuitous to us, but was directed by Providence with design.” Little did they know it but Naomi and Ruth’s lives would be changed forever.

Naomi believed that her only hope was to return to the “house of bread”. Was she disappointed in her decision to go back? (see Ruth 2:20 and Joel 2:25,26 for the answer)

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Many of us have lost precious things over the years. Lost time, lost relationships, lost houses, lost loved ones, we could all make a list. Some of these things have been lost because of bad choices we have made, some because of sinful lifestyles, and others simply because we live in an imperfect world with trouble everywhere. The good news is that there is recovery and restoration available to us in

Christ and He wants to visit you today with fresh bread!” Dick Mills has some awesome thoughts about this, check it out:

- **RESTORED PHYSICAL SOUNDNESS** (Jer. 30:17.): We are told by doctors that some ailments leave people with no hope of recovery. This word from the Lord says that lost health can be regained.
- **RESTORED HAPPINESS** (Ps. 51:12.): Upon confession of wrongdoing and receipt of God’s forgiveness, joy returns to the soul. If you have lost your joy, search your heart to see if there is something you need to confess and repent of.
- **RESTORED PATHS** (Is. 28:12.): During times of spiritual declension, the path of service is not always easily discerned. When revival comes, the plan leading home to the Father’s house is always clear.
- **RESTORED LIFE** (Ruth 4:15.): Here is a promise of rejuvenation despite the aging process. The Lord promises us that our youth shall be renewed like the eagle’s. (Ps. 103:5.)

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*“ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! **And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age;** for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.” Ruth 4:13,17*

“The Lord provided for Naomi and Ruth for the rest of their days.”

Week 9: By This is My Father Glorified- Discipleship

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

John 15:8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

1} According to our memory verse for this week, how is our Father glorified?

Our Father is glorified when we bear much fruit. One of the main ways in which we bear fruit, is by making disciples. One of the last things Jesus did before ascending into heaven was to give His disciples some instructions, a mission, commonly referred to as the Great Commission. Read Matthew 28:18-20 below and discuss the Lord's direction. Has His mission changed? No. Does His mission apply to us today? Yes. If we are His disciples, then He has called us to make disciples. (CM)

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

2} What is a disciple?

Before we can even ask, "How then can we make disciples? Or how then can we accomplish this mission," we must know what a disciple is. A disciple is a learner, follower of Jesus Christ. He is one who learns under discipline. He is a person who seeks to become like the Master in every part of his life. One does not have to look very hard at the words "disciple" and "discipline" to see that they are inter-connected and very much related. If we are to be a disciple and follower of Jesus, then we must allow ourselves to be subjected to the discipline of the Lord. God's ultimate desire for every believer can be found in Romans 8:29. Read it below. The Father desires us to be conformed to the image of His Son. We are to look like Jesus. This, of course, is not referring to His physical appearance but his actions and attitudes. Read and discuss the scripture verses below. In Acts 4:13, what made the Pharisees realize that Peter and John were disciples of Jesus? They were "looking" like Him. Would anyone be saying the same thing of us? (CM)

Romans 8:29

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Matthew 10:25a

It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

3} How do we make disciples? We must believe.

a. First, we must be a disciple ourselves by believing. Then part of our own discipleship is learning that that we are to believe or know that Jesus commanded us to make disciples. We must believe that our Father is glorified by bearing fruit. In order to make disciples, we must be abiding in the vine. We must actually have spent and continue to spend time with Jesus. We must be relationally connected to Him. If I am, the fruit will happen naturally. The more we are connected to Christ, the more we put ourselves in an atmosphere that is conducive for fruit bearing. An atmosphere of regularly reading and confessing the scriptures and saturating in His manifest presence is the atmosphere that will produce much fruit as I relate to others.

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

b. Secondly, we must be relationally connected to others in order to disciple them.

Why are close personal relationships important to making disciples?

1 John 4:21

And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

In what two ways was Timothy to teach the Christian life to others? In word and in conduct.

1 Timothy 4:11-12

11 These things command and teach. 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

How did Paul teach other people to be disciples? Imitate him or follow his example.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Philippians 4:9

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Relationships involve accountability.

Ephesians 5:21

submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Paul instructed Timothy to multiply himself by making disciples. In the following verse, we see four generations of disciples: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and others.

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

4} How important is discipleship to you? How has discipleship affected your life?

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Discipleship was a major part of the life and ministry of Jesus. One of His first acts, when He began his ministry was to select twelve men to spend time with for the purpose of discipleship. Discipleship is not the same as teaching. Of course making disciples involves teaching. Discipleship is not just receiving instruction, but taking on the beliefs and lifestyle of your teacher.

The disciples of Jesus learned from observation. They watched Jesus as he prayed, taught and preached the word of God, healed the sick, and cast out devils. They were with Jesus constantly for three years. They learned about life and ministry by observing and mimicking the life of Jesus.

All of us learn about life from those we love and respect. The discipleship process begins shortly after birth as we learn about life from observing our parents and brothers and sisters. The first phase of our discipleship takes place in that first “small group” called family that we are a part of. As we grow older and begin to make decisions on our own, other people replace our parents and become our teachers.

The Lord has used three different men in a very significant way to become an instructor and model in my life. Each one came at a different phase in my life and became influential in my spiritual growth. Who is impacting your life? Whose teachings and lifestyle are you embracing? What are others learning as they observe you? Of course Jesus is the disciple maker. He has determined to use human vessels to accomplish this incredible task.” (The Bailey Drink, August 26, 2010)

The Woman at the Well



“If you only knew”

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” John 4:10

Read her story in John 4:1-28; 39-42

“The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?” John 4:11 Frank once preached out of John 4 and the words “If you knew the gift of God” begin to speak to me. You can’t help but identify with this woman and this story. Jesus was tired, He sent the disciples into the city to fetch something to eat and He rested by this well. Up walks a lady and He strikes up a conversation. They both had a need; Jesus was thirsty and, well, evidently so was this lady because she brought with her a big bucket.

Do you remember the first time you met Jesus. Now looking back, I bet you would say, “I had no idea who Christ was or how my future would so drastically change.” Briefly tell of when you first met Him along the path you were walking.

As far as what was in her hand at the time, I think all of us can relate to her bucket. She carried it around probably her whole life. Just when we think our bucket is full we find something else to throw in there. I remember my childhood dream was to travel the country in a VW van, going to music festivals, and living in tents. (It was the 70’s!) That was my bucket at the time. The funny thing about that is, I did live in tents at our bible school as missionary training and travel the country and it wasn’t as romantic as I had imagined! The point is that the graces of His Spirit and His comfort can satisfy the thirsting soul. There was standing in front of her the biggest bucket of all time and she didn’t even know it.

The way she viewed her bucket and the water that was in it needed to change. What does this say about the way we see things and value things? (see 1 Cor. 13:12)

Jesus is so patient with all of us. We answer back to His fullness with a blunt-
“Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep.” Just as she looked at Him with her natural eyes so we too look at all our circumstances and our needs in the natural, after all He wasn’t carrying His bucket and couldn’t possibly draw water.

I’ve seen it over and over again in a person’s life and in my life. We simply can’t believe that He truly can satisfy this thirst. I find the thirst of this world only gives me a transient satisfaction and supply. It might quench my present thirst, but the thirst will return.

John 4:13,14 says, “Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

He offered her an endless supply of living water. But in order for the benefits of that living water to affect her everyday life, what must she do on a consistent, daily basis? List some ways we can spiritually “drink in Christ”.

I thank God, Jesus takes the time for all of us just like He took the time for this thirsting soul. He walked her down her past life and told her how she no longer needed to carry that big ol’ bucket anymore. In fact, the more He talked I can imagine she begin to fill so very full, an unbelievably satisfying feeling took over her. I have felt that feeling and still feel it. I love this part of the story in John; she forgot the very errand that brought her to the well. I think she found her very last bucket. If we only knew!

Who else believed in Christ as a result of her testimony? John 4:39-42

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified,”
John 4:39*

“As the Woman at the Well continually drank the Living Water she began to know who the Man she met truly was. As we continually drink, who God is becomes revealed to us in powerful ways.”

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 10: *The Basis of Our Faith*

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK



2 Timothy 1:12b

For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

1} Do you know God? Do you know in whom you have believed? Are you convinced that he is able to keep what you have committed into His hands? Knowing God is the basis of our faith.

Daniel 11:32b

but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

1 John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

The more we know God, the more we trust Him. We know Him to be faithful, trustworthy, sovereign, all-powerful, all knowing, and always present. When we meditate on who God is, our hearts are encouraged and faith to believe comes alive. Let's look at just a few of the characteristics of God in order to enter the rest that comes as a result of knowing Him.

2} Is God sovereign? God is SOVEREIGN. He exercises power over creation and rules as a sovereign King. He sustains and carries creation along by the word of His power. He upholds, maintains, guides, and propels our lives. He has our whole life in His hand and we can rest in Him. Nothing surprises Him. He is directing all things including our own steps to fulfill His purposes. He is working things out for our good and for His glory.

Hebrews 1:3 (Amplified)

He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,

Psalms 103:19

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

Genesis 50:20

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 4:11

I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.

Ephesians 1:11

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

3} Is God all-powerful? God is all-powerful or OMNIPOTENT. God is able to do all of His holy will. His power is infinite. There is nothing too difficult for Him to do. His power is supernatural in nature. His power was displayed at the resurrection and glorification of Jesus and is directed toward us. His power is also at work in us. His power is displayed in the gospel. His power is poured out in spirit baptism. We can rest in his keeping power.

Genesis 18:14

Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Jeremiah 32:27

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Ephesians 1:17-23

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

John 10:28

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

4} Does God really know all things? God is all knowing or OMNISCIENT. God fully knows Himself. He knows all things as they really are. Nothing is beyond His knowledge. He knows all things past, present, future. He knows our lives, how we were created and what makes us tick. His knowledge of all things enables Him to make perfect choices.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

Hebrews 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Isaiah 46:9-10

9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

Psalm 139:1-4, 16

1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

1 John 3:20

For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Romans 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” 35 “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

5} Is God really always present? God is always present or OMNIPRESENT. He does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God manifests differently in different places. The fact that God is the Lord of space and cannot be limited by space is evident from the fact that He created it. Nothing in creation can contain Him. God is present everywhere. Discuss the difference between the omnipresence of God and the manifest presence of God.

Psalm 139 1-12

1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

1 Kings 8:27

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

Acts 7:48-50

48 “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 49 ‘Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? 50 Has My hand not made all these things?’

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

The Syrophenician Woman



“Going beyond the Promises to the Promiser!”

Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 15:28

(Read her story in Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)

The Syrophenician Woman had a problem bigger than herself, her daughter was demon possessed. She obviously had heard that a man named Jesus could heal the worst cases. So instead of just believing the promises of a possible miracle, she decided to go straight to the **“Promiser.”** In this story we will see that the Lord is not only concerned for the many, but He is equally concerned for the one. She would not have known that by the first response she received from Him.

According to Matthew 15:23-24, what was Jesus’ response to her cry for mercy?

But this woman would not give up. Her daughter was beyond help, and the woman’s only hope now stood before her. She did not come to Him to learn of why He came to this earth, but she came seeking a miracle for someone she loved dearly and so she came in faith. Matthew Henry writes, “It is good to make the afflictions of others our own, in sense and sympathy, that we may make them our own, in improvement and advantage.” He goes on to say that it is the duty of parents to pray for their children, and to be earnest in prayer for them, especially for their souls... Bring them to Christ by faith and prayer, who alone is able to heal them.

Who are you bringing to Christ through prayer?

Never the less He seemingly was at first unwilling to help. Matthew Henry gives us a possibility why He treated her that way. “Possibly, Christ treated her that way, to try her; He knows what is in the heart, knew the strength of her faith, and how well able she was, by His grace, to break through such discouragements; He therefore met her with them, that the trial of her faith might be found unto praise, and honor, and glory, 1 Peter 1:6, 7. This was like God’s tempting Abraham (Gen. 22:1), like the angel’s wrestling with Jacob, Gen. 32:24. Many of the methods of Christ’s providence, and especially of His grace, in dealing with His people, which are dark and perplexing, may be explained with the key of this story, which is for that end left upon record, to teach us that there may be love in His face, and to encourage us, therefore, though He slay us, yet to trust in him. (See also Job 23:8-10) Every accepted prayer is not immediately an answered prayer... “for the vision, at the end, shall speak, and shall not lie.” Hab. 2:3

What does the Bible say about the testing of your faith James 1:2-4?

Matthew Henry continues, “She did not sink in discouragement but rather took what He said and used it to display her incredible inner faith.... Faith can find encouragement even in that which is discouraging. The greatness of faith consists much in a resolute adherence to Jesus Christ as an all-sufficient Savior, even in the face of discouragements; to love Him, and trust Him, as a Friend, even then when He seems to come forth against us... **This is GREAT FAITH!** She doesn’t argue if He was the one whom Christ was sent to...She has come to the Son of David for mercy, and she would not let Him go until He blessed her. She believed that Christ could and would help her.

How is this woman like the “persistent widow” found in Luke 18:1-8?

And help her He did. ***“Her daughter was made whole from that very hour;*** from that moment forward she was never vexed with the devil anymore; the mother’s faith prevailed for the daughter’s cure. **Though the patient was at a distance,** that was no hindrance to the efficacy of Christ’s word. **He spoke, and it was done.** (MH) Those that wait on the Lord... shall be abundantly satisfied with the goodness of His house! Psalm 65:4

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

“And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” Matthew 15:28

“The Syrophenician Woman not only believed in the promises she had heard, but found the Promiser who was able to perform over and above what she asked for.”

(Lesson above by Pastor Karen Boudreaux)

Week 11: Precious Promises

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1} According to 2 Peter 1:3-4, we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises. Read the verses below and discuss what they also say concerning our God's promises. He is able to perform His promises. He who promised is faithful. We inherit the promises through faith and patience. His promises are yes and amen. As a result of receiving the promise, we allow God to change us. We are Abraham's seed. God cannot lie. We are joint heirs with Christ. (CM)

Romans 4:21

and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 6:12

that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Galatians 3:16

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Galatians 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Numbers 23:19

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

Romans 8:16-17

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

2} What are these exceedingly great and precious promises and where can I find them? To find these great and precious promises we must dig in the word of God. In this lesson and part of the next, we shall explore just a few areas of promise that God has for His children.

a. Area of Promise: Protection

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Proverbs 2:7-8

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; 8 He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Proverbs 30:5b

He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord.

Deuteronomy 33:12b

“The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders.”

Isaiah 59:19b

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

1 Peter 1:5

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Psalm 91:1-4

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Deuteronomy 1:30a

30 The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you,

b. Area of Promise: Salvation for our family

Acts 16:31

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Acts 2:39

For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

c. Area of Promise: Peace

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Ephesians 2:14a

For He Himself is our peace...

1 Corinthians 14:33a

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Isaiah 9:6-7a

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Colossians 3:15a

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all.

d. Area of Promise: Sleep**Psalm 4:8**

8 I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Proverbs 19:23 (NASB)

The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

Psalm 127:2b (NASB)

For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.

Proverbs 3:21,24

21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes—Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

e. Area of Promise: Comfort**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Isaiah 51:12a

“I, even I, am He who comforts you.

Isaiah 66:13

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

2 Corinthians 7:6

Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us...

Isaiah 51:3

For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Psalms 23:4

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Jeremiah 31:13b

For I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow.

John 14:16 Amplified Bible

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever

f. Area of Promise: Direction and Guidance

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Proverbs 19:21

There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Proverbs 16:9

A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Isaiah 45:13a

I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways;

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

John 16:13

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

g. Area of Promise: Faithfulness**1 Thessalonians 5:24**

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

1 Peter 4:19

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

1 Timothy 1:12

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

Luke 16:10-12

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Mary



“The Song of Faith- She Believed What was Told to Her!”

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord. And Mary said, “My soul doth magnify The Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior”

Luke 1:45-47

(Read her story in Luke 1:26-47)

When Mary visited Elizabeth it wasn't long before their faith and joy combined into torrents of joy and the supernatural. One minute they were just two ordinary country girls that changed suddenly into a prophetess and poetess. Everyday we should look for God to show up in our ordinary, transforming it into something spectacular. When Mary encountered the visit from the angel Gabriel she made it personal. She decided to magnify The Lord or ***“make room for Him in her life.”*** In fact it as if she said, “my spirit shall dance like David before the ark, I shall leap, spring, bound and rejoice in God my Savior. She was answering back that “the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.” Will you embrace the divine purpose? Human will meets with the divine will and something supernatural always happens. The question is ***“will we surrender to the song God wants to sing over us?”***

Mary had a supernatural encounter with an angel who told her about what was about to happen. Have you ever had a supernatural encounter like in a dream or vision, or a word of prophesy etc. where you knew God was speaking to you?

So after receiving a “vision for her future” Mary had to “make room for Him in her life” and “surrender to the song He wanted to sing through her”, how can we today apply this to our lives?

As far as, Elizabeth I am sure she had “all kind of plans for her “little Johnny”- maybe he would be the best disc thrower or become a priest like his father. Instead he ate locusts and honey and grew dreads! When God comes near, our whole perspective can change. Mary faced a choice that day to either embrace what lay before her or run and deny the chance for God to overshadow her. All of us are faced with these same choices. Gabriel also made an unexpected visit to the priest Zachariah and he was struck dumb because he didn't embrace the future that his wife would conceive and bare John the Baptist. Many of us find it hard to embrace or even believe that God has a remarkable plan for us. We

have spent most of our lives shutting down so we perpetually continue on the same path. We too can be like Zachariah getting another chance to believe and when his son is born, his mouth speaks nothing but praise! The missing link in most of our lives is just that we never have had a **SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER** with God so we live from day to day in disappointment, heartache, and hopelessness. As in Mary, He always wants to stomp on the serpent's head in our lives.

Is it possible to have a personal encounter with God today? Is there a connection between an encounter with God Himself and breakthrough in our ordinary lives? (consider some of the stories in the Bible- Moses and the burning bush, Gideon, Daniel, Elijah, Peter in Prison, Philip, Paul when shipwrecked, not to mention Sarah, Hager, Manoh's wife and Mary Magdalene at the garden tomb after the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the list goes on and on.)

There is nothing like forgiveness, love and joy in the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we simply cannot contain the gratitude we feel when God shows up in our storm. Are you willing to open wide and "let the King of Glory" come in? He always had a plan, maybe looking at the baby in the manger that Christmas morning didn't reveal much, but if you **MAKE IT PERSONAL** and begin to ponder the things in your heart, you just never know, it just might end up being a **GAME CHANGER**. I pray you too will give vent to the song!

Purposes and Promises Fulfilled:

*"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1:45 In the God's Word Translation it says, **"You are blessed for believing that the Lord would keep His promise to you."***

***... "And it came to pass..."** She brought forth her firstborn son..." Luke 2:1,7*

"Mary believed in the Promises of God. What Promises are you holding onto?"

(Lesson above compiled from the writings of Pastor Parris Bailey)

Week 12: He Who Promised is Faithful

MEMORY VERSE
OF THE WEEK

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful.

1} In the previous lesson, what type of promises did we discuss? We discussed some of the exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:3-4) that we have been given. We began to explore a few areas of promise that God has for His children. We will begin this week by continuing to look at some additional promises and concluding our study with looking again at He who is faithful so that we may run our race well.

a. Area of Promise: Hope

Psalm 71:5

For You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth.

Proverbs 23:18

For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.

Romans 8:24-25

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

b. Area of Promise: Joy

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1 John 1:4

And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

John 17:13

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Proverbs 12:20b

But counselors of peace have joy.

Nehemiah 8:10b

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Romans 14:17

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

c. Area of Promise: Love

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Ephesians 3:17-19

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Romans 8:35,38-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

d. Area of Promise: Strength

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 29:11

The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 28:7a

The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped...

Ephesians 3:16

that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Colossians 1:11

strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Psalm 27:14

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Isaiah 40:29-31

29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

2} What does our memory verse for this week tell us to do? Hebrews 10:23 exhorts us to hold fast our confession of hope without wavering. We hold fast to Christ, for he is the very Word of God. He who promised is indeed faithful.

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “Our Christian life is a race to the finish line. Christ is waiting for each of us with outstretched arms at the line, the saints who have gone before are standing and shouting us on. It’s our turn; it’s our turn to run. The race itself is supernatural. He has called us to the race. He has equipped us and trained us to win. He has marked out the course and put it in our hearts. He strengthens us as we go. He encourages and picks us up when we stumble. It’s our job to just keep running, we just have to stay in the race.

We must ask ourselves the question, “Am I even in the race?” Paul refers to the race as our chosen purpose in this Christian life. The Lord has a track for each of us to run. It involves surrender, commitment, diligence, and perseverance. If you haven’t figured it out yet, this race involves your part in ministry to others. The work of the ministry is for all Christians. The work of ministers is to equip Christians for this work. The second question is this; “am I disqualifying myself by my choices?” Paul told us to run this race to win. The reward is eternal and the race is final. So if you have stumbled, get back up. Get back in the race. There is not much time. How do I know? The roar from the stadium is almost deafening.” (The Bailey Drink, November 15, 2015)

3} How shall we run our race? We shall run our race well, we shall run by faith, and we shall finish strong. This earth is not our home. There is more, so much more.

Hebrews 11:13

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Pastor Frank Bailey writes, “It’s really easy to get overly attached to this world. It sometimes seems that this is all there is. But something deep inside of all of us knows there must be more. Is life really just about houses and cars and vacations? Is there more to life than careers and football and even family? In our current world it seems that family holds the pinnacle of importance but is that really all there is? Could it be that there is an unseen world and we are just pilgrims and strangers passing through? The apostle Paul actually said that our true citizenship is in heaven. That means that I am ultimately allegiant to the Kingdom of God above even my earthly country. Jonathan Edwards spoke about the reality of heaven and how that affected everything. Here are some of his thoughts.

‘In heaven alone is attainment of our highest good. God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper happiness, and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here: better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops; but God is the ocean. Therefore, it becomes us to spend this life only as a journey towards heaven, as it becomes us to make the seeking of our highest end, and proper good, the whole work of our lives; and we should

subordinate all the other concerns of life to it. Why should we labor for anything else, or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end, and true happiness?’

Actually, this is one of my favorite and often quoted quotes. To me, it captures the essence of heaven and the temporary nature of this life. All we experience here is really a shadow of the heavenly experience our heart really longs for. To know Christ is to know life. To taste this life starts our heart down the journey that brings us to the heavenly kingdom. Like the saints that have gone before us, we are just passing through.” (The Bailey Drink)

4} We end this study the same way we began, in Matthew 19:26, “with God all things are possible.” We look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith and WE BELIEVE!