

#64 A SPOKEN WORD.....

“Faith learns to yield to God’s grace.”

These words are spoken to me in my sleep and are a response to my praying about the fine line between my faith and God’s faith. All spiritual endowments come from God by His grace and Spirit, yet we know we must move in response to God. This yielding is our work and our obedience. Faith that supernaturally moves impossible things is a gift that comes to us from God. It is not something we hold and use whenever we wish. God gives it for a reason, and that is to accomplish His purposes. The faith that is required of us is that human response of yielding to God’s given grace. Our faith is simply trusting and believing. Notice that Hebrews 11:6 reads:

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

This faith is more to be understood as our trusting or yielding to the faith of God given to us. Our believing and obeying are the works often linked with faith. Without works of this sort, faith is dead to us. There is nothing wrong with the grace or faith of God. If fault is to be found, it must be found in our not surrendering to this faith and grace. God is the author and finisher of every real spiritual work, yet between its beginning and ending you will always find a man or woman that became His vessel for its completion. God begins the life-giving move to every ministry, including teaching and intercession. We make ourselves instruments yielded to His use. He works in and through us to accomplish and complete that ministry. Thus we are co-laborers with Him. The vine produces no fruit apart from the branches.

Jesus Himself, the perfect human, said that He never spoke a word or did a work which He did not first see the Father do. Sometimes He said that He worked as His Father worked. Other times He said that the Father spoke and worked in Him! What submission, to so move in God that at times it was hard to perceive who was doing what. That is union of spirit and work---that is being yoked to God! We remember that Jesus was the Son of God, but often forget that every act He performed He did as perfect man surrendered to the Holy Spirit; He could only use His divine nature by permission. The great temptation of Christ in the wilderness was to use His divine side to make bread when He was hungry. He knew it was wrong to do so, and waited in perfect trust for the time that the Father would feed Him. That is the real wonder and amazement of the life of Christ---He completely submitted to His Father’s will.

Indeed, our faith must learn to yield to God’s grace. Our trust and assurance must hold to God’s grace as God’s grace holds to us. It is never all God. No, we are free, moral, spiritual beings and need to respond by yielding to His grace. Let us not allow this grace to be bestowed in vain by refusing to trust and submit to God’s will and works. The epistles speak much of grace and faith. They also speak of man’s duty in believing, obeying and yielding to that grace and faith.

The danger today in all this new so-called faith teaching is this: it often attempts to make our faith an object we can take and do with as we please. That is not true! God will never give such faith to men and women who still see faith only as a means of satisfying their own covetous and self-seeking desires. Great men of faith used their faith in union with the Spirit of God to accomplish His will and plans, not their own.

Faith teachings that leave out the cross-life and self-denial for Christ are deadly. One may use faith by the Spirit's leading to do as He directs and not as selfish man desires. The many television evangelists that speak much of faith often use it to cloak their own covetous, materialistic lifestyles! These seed-faith teachers frequently prosper financially at the expense of their many deceived and fleeced sheep. Surely, if worldly prosperity is the great sign of God's blessing, then the heroes of Hebrews and most of the early church forefathers of the first century were deceived.

No, I am afraid it is these wolves in sheep's clothing that are deceived. They not only teach half truths and lies, they begin to believe their lies to their own spiritual destruction! They are false shepherds and prophets whose works shall indeed find their reward. That reward, my friends, is this: because they love not and desire not the truth, and love greed and covetousness instead, death and hell shall await these souls. It is a hard saying but God Himself shall give them over to believe a lie that they shall be damned.

The most terrible judgment which God can give a living soul is this: to believe one is okay and right with God, yet at the judgment seat of God to stand speechless in horror to find his or her soul committed to outer darkness. Do not envy the covetous ministers, for most will not recover from that great snare of which the apostle Paul gives warning---those that would be rich will fall into many a lust that drown men in hell (I Timothy 6:9)!