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The Measure Of Faith

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.



Please notice that “*of himself*” is italicized. In The King James translation any phrase or word that is italicized means it wasn’t there when the translators were reading the original Greek transcripts. In some cases it helps us understand to a fuller extent what is being said in the Greek, however, most of the time it causes us to misunderstand what was really being said and leads us the wrong direction. But thanks be to God for the Holy Spirit that helps us when we ask for His help. So when we read this particular verse in Paul’s letter to the Roman believers without “of Himself” it does change what Paul wrote. If we are not to think more highly than we ought to think; but think soberly, according to the measure of faith that God has given to everyone that believes we need to think according to what God says and not what we might think. Why; simply because we base most, if not all, of our thinking on what we can see, feel, smell and hear. The body of Christ has access to the mind of Christ that freely tells us all things we need to know that God has provided as a finished work for anyone that will believe. The measure of faith He gave us is for Him to use when we believe what He has done, not what we are seeing or feeling. Everything that we can see or feel is temporary which means it can change. What can change it? God’s word with faith mixed with it. Unbelievers can read the word of God on the page and nothing will change. But, the believer can mix the measure of faith he has been given so God can manifest His word through that faith.

If we think “of ourselves” in temporary places, sick or miserable or broke, we are actually thinking more highly than we ought because it is not the truth. Because we think that way sometimes, we try to find ways to change our temporary situation. We go to what we know the world has to offer and if anything changes it is a temporary change. I realized one day that if I used my will power to change something I had to maintain that change with my will power, the change I experienced was very temporary! But if I allowed God to make the change He had to maintain that change and it was permanent!

In Paul’s letter to the Romans there are two verses before verse three; Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable

unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The only way to prove anything is to do it. Not being conformed to the world simply means do not fashion ourselves like the world, don't do what the world does in almost all situations. But let's be transformed by the renewing of our minds, transformed is a word in Greek that is referring to a metamorphosis of our mind. Renewing is a word that entails remodeling of a house. Well, we know that God has given to us the measure of faith; lets start mixing that faith with His word that describes us. Prove that the will of God for us is more true than these temporary situations that try and get us to conform to them. God can and will manifest His word in any and all situations if we only believe.

If you read carefully what Paul wrote here you will see that the mind is where the focus is. It is our thinker that is the stinker! It must be washed by the water of the word so we begin to live and move and have our being in His word. The Mary principle; What ever He says, DO IT! That is the only way to prove what God's will is in every situation. No matter what we might know about a certain situation, whatever God has said is truer and forever. We fight the good fight of faith by keeping our thoughts captive and believing what God's word says by living it out. If you have a pain, find out what God says about pain and believe what God says over what you are feeling or over what you know about pain. Find what God's word says about what we should be seeing verses what we are seeing and believe it over what we know. Find what God's word says about what we should be experiencing over what we are experiencing in the natural and believe it and His word will manifest through the battle of faith. It's a good fight because we are already more than conquerors and Jesus has completely defeated our only enemy, the devil. Let me give you an example: God looked at all He had made and the darkness surrounding it and said, "Light be". If He had been like us He would have said, "Gee it's dark out there," and He would plunge the world into eternal darkness. We are so accustomed to doing things our own way that we see darkness and run down to the world's hardware store and buy a flashlight. God used His faith to separate light from darkness and created light with His word. He wasn't moved by what He saw. He had put faith in His word and released it. We should put faith in His word and do it.

The disciples were walking with Jesus one day and after watching many miracles they came to Him and asked, "What must we do to work the works of God?" Good question isn't it? That's what we want to see and do also isn't it? Jesus said to them, "You must be Torah observant and know all that the Prophets said." NO HE DIDN'T!! Jesus said to them, "Believe only." Believe what? Whatever God says! When we get to the place of proving God's will for our lives it will be what sustains us, yes even eating food from another realm. Jesus said one day to His disciples that His meat or food was doing the will of His Father when all His disciples were hungry. We have the faith of God, the same as Jesus. We have the written word of God, the same written word Jesus had. We have the same righteous standing with God that Jesus had. We have been made new, spiritually alive, just like Jesus. We can hear our Father just like Jesus and because of that Jesus is building His body of believers. Remember the word renewing means "the remodeling of a house"? Well renewing our minds is up to us so Jesus can use us as He sees fit. Our Father is so good and so perfect He will let us stay stupid and still take us home to be eternally with Him. But He has a plan that includes volunteers to really begin believing what He has done for us. He can only use those of us that use the faith He has given to us. The first and most important thing we need to use that measure of faith for is to believe the supply of a divine nature has been given to each one of us. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is in us, but we must begin to prove it. Only Believe!

All it takes is the measure we have.

Times and Seasons

It's really quite close to spring. I noticed buds on a friend's pecan tree yesterday and little shoots of grass growing in our yard and in the yard where we keep our goats. God declared in Genesis there would be times and seasons, cycles that determine and help us mark time. We all go through the cycles of life and yet we may not be in tune to the fact that there are spiritual ramifications to these cycles. I've shared in past newsletters that God has declared "moeds" or appointed times





throughout the bible. The Hebrew folks are very much in tune with the natural application of these moeds, but we as spiritual children of God seem to have only a sliver of light into these times and cycles of God.

In Ecclesiastes King Solomon shares his wisdom in regards to the timing of man. God speaks to the children of Israel all through the Torah (first five books of our bible) about His timing. Many years ago God began showing me that there were “time codes” for the spiritual man to see, understand and use. Knowing the timing of God can aid the Body of Christ in a multitude of ways. Let me paint a natural picture to help you understand a little more.

Imagine it’s spring and just about time to plant your annual garden. You sit down and perhaps make a diagram of the place you’re going to plant. You look at your favorite seed catalog and choose the veggies you’re going to plant. You then prepare the soil to receive the seed. Eventually you put the seed in the ground. There is a time when the seed “seems” to be doing nothing, but experience tells you that it is being worked on by the soil. Eventually the seedling (now sprouted) peeks its head above the ground. You then water and weed your garden until it produces a harvest. This whole process took a prescribed period of time. If you carefully read your seed packets you know just how long it takes for the peas to produce. You also know it can take around 104 days for your corn to produce depending on which type of corn you planted. You don’t freak out on day 25 because you know, you are fully aware that it will take so long for each seed to germinate and bring forth.

God calls us His garden; we are the planting of the Lord (Isaiah 58:11, 61:3). Yeshua/Jesus taught us how to understand parables by teaching us the parable of the sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4 & Luke 8). God likens His word to seed. If we understand that God’s word is seed we can add the principle of times or “moeds” to the principle of sowing and grasp quite a lot of the spiritual kingdom of our God.

In the parable of the sower we see a stranger who has entered into the garden. He comes to devour the seed so that it cannot produce a harvest. He depends upon his stealth to snatch the seed from the unwary. God has said, “My people perish for a lack of knowledge (spiritual perception not head knowledge).” So we see the thief who comes up “some other way”. He approaches the uninformed Eve and though Adam stands next to Eve, he says and does nothing. The subtle serpent smoothly slithers in with his temptations and convinces Eve that the word of God isn’t true. Her husband could have told her that he had told her one thing and God had told him something different, but for some reason he stands right there and remains silent. Eve falls for the deceiver and bites into the forbidden knowledge so that she can be like God. She was the daughter of God, how much more godlike could she be? She was made in His image and in His likeness. She turns and offers the knowledge to Adam who in turn WITH UNDERSTANDING rebelliously bites as well. And so the times and seasons begin to tick down as sin has set things in motion. Praise God for appointed times. We only have 7,000 years from the time Adam bites until it’s all over! When things get really dark around me I thank God for reminding me that even the worst trial is temporary at best. When the attack is in full force I remind myself that the enemy is truly defeated, he has stolen the right to the lease on earth and has only 7,000 years to try and take the throne of God. He is the father of all lies. He is so deceived and so dead he refuses to admit that even though he is still standing his roots are dead, dried and the death he IS has taken over. Ezekiel tells us that there is a fire burning in his midst and I believe it is slowly consuming him. (Praise God!)

I do have some extraordinary news. God has promised to shorten time so that all flesh won’t be destroyed! When Noah was the last righteous man on the planet God intervened and destroyed all the wicked. He gave Noah and righteousness a fighting chance. Sin was lying dormant inside Noah. Like corrupted DNA Adam’s sin was resident in all mankind. Only through faith in what God had told him did Noah stand a change of survival. In the one hundred plus years it took him to build the ark he was a preacher of righteousness. Of course he had no takers, but the righteousness of faith was working in him.

God through the perfect obedience of Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Anointed Messiah) was able to rescue all of mankind. We ask again why the devil has free reign on earth. God in Genesis declared something and He



CANNOT lie. If He says a thing it is law. He by grace can supercede laws, but He can't ignore or break them. That is how Yeshua was able to travel at super human speeds across the Galilee. A higher law can supercede one of lesser power. God can see the end from the beginning. Right in that statement is a hidden time code.

There is no way one human can pass on all that is available to understand about the time codes of God, but as you ask God to reveal them and their significance you can come to a higher understanding of what is happening here on earth and in the heavenlies.

Ecclesiastes {3:1} To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Moses lived the full number of his days. In Psalms 90 he prays to God to teach us to number our days. We shouldn't waste our time in deceptive endless work to no benefit. If we become unaware of the timing of God we will miss out on wisdom.

Psalms {90:12} So teach [us] to number our days, that we may apply [our] hearts unto wisdom.

Exodus {20:8} Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. {20:9} Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: {20:10} But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: {20:11} For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is,] and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.



Right here is a very important “moed” and God tells us why it is so important. First He tells us to REMEMBER the Sabbath day. If you were to ask the average Christian when the Sabbath day is he/she would say, “Sunday”. They would be WRONG. If you were to ask the more informed Christian when the Sabbath day is he/she would say in somewhat partial understanding, “Saturday”. Again that answer would be partially right. Now I've got your attention and I will leave you hanging. If you want to know the correct answer you must seek God through His Spirit to get the answer. It is not my job to teach you everything, but to speak what God tells me to speak and to do what He tells me to do. He teaches His children by His Spirit. Sure you'd like to be handfed, but that is not to be the way of our God. He tells us, “Seek me while I can be found.” (Another time code by the way.) Selah.

In The Midst of a Battle

The word is full of references to the battle we are in as humans. Even the lost that are unaware of Yeshua/Jesus or Abba Father are in the same battle and talk about the battles of life. The battle mankind is in is for the souls of man and the adversary is our enemy. Sure he was defeated on the cross 2,000 years ago, but because Adam gave up rights to earth for 7,000 years we must deal with him on a daily basis until the “moed” of God is here for the end.

I'm going to list just a few of the verses that the Holy Spirit is bringing to my mind to give you a picture of just how real this battle is.

1. Eph. 6:11 Put on the full armor of God...
2. 2 Cor. 10:4 The weapons of our warfare...
3. Eph. 6:12 We wrestle not with flesh and blood...
4. Luke 10:19 I give you power over all the power of the enemy...
5. John 10:10 The thief cometh but for to steal, kill and destroy...



6. *1 Pet. 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith...*
7. *1 Cor. 14:8 ...who shall prepare himself for the battle?*
8. *Luke 11:22...he taketh from him all his armor...*
9. *Rom. 13:12...put on the armor of light.*
10. *2 Cor. 6:7... the armor of righteousness...*

There are loads more verses that aren't so obvious, but which tell us that we are in the midst of a battle. The one thing we must remember is that the enemy is basically a "banded tree". He sounds like he is alive and acts like he is alive, but at the root of it all he is quite defeated and very much dead.

Colossians {2:15} [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The Lord has truly defeated the enemy and his victory is what we must stand on as our firm foundation. Like soldiers holding a hill we stand on the ground, which our commander has taken. We hold fast to the confession of our faith in HIS finished work.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith.

We don't fight the devil for he is defeated. We're told to "cast out devils" and to "resist steadfast in the faith" the enemy. He constantly speaks lies to us. He is the author of lies and deceit. When we speak what he says or what he does to us we authorize him or empower him to do what he has said. He steals the power that Yeshua has given us!

Matthew {28:18} And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore..."



The only "power" the devil has is to lie. He has this "power" for only a short time longer. Sure 7,000 years seems like a long time, but if we consider that a day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day his allotted time is very limited.

We lose track of the truth that we (who are in Messiah/Christ/The Anointed One) are eternal beings. We are already part of eternity, but also stand within time. We are spirit and therefore were with God before time and shall be with Him after time. When we allow our minds to focus only on the temporal realms (timed) we limit what He is able to do with and through us.

Yeshua told us that there would be "wars and rumors of wars" before he returned. I'd say he was right on in his prophesying. Not only are there wars and skirmishes everywhere, but we are also smack dab in the middle of the biggest battle ever. The enemy is trying his best to exalt his throne above the throne of the Most High God. A created being can NEVER be more than its creator. The thought of it is ridiculous. He rages on as if he had won, but he knew ages ago he had but a short time. He knew he only had 7,000 years to try to win back when he tempted Adam and Eve. We're in the year 5768 of the Hebrew calendar. Clearly his time is running out. (This date is not exact as the Jews lost the true count of the calendar during the Diaspora.) There could be even less time than that left! At the end of the sixth day or 6,000th year the enemy will be locked up for 1,000 years. Yeshua will sit on the throne of earth and rule and reign. Because of the legalistic nature of the enemy he will be loosed for a very short time at the end of the 7,000 years. Sadly folks will still go after his lying ways and be lost forever, but those in Christ will enter into eternity without his continuing molestation. He will ultimately be tossed into the lake of fire where he, the beast and the false prophet will be tormented FOREVER. Hallelujah.

Now I've said all that to remind you of this fact. We have a good fight to fight. We must hold onto our faith in God and HIS ability to save us to the utmost. In order to do this we must maintain our spiritual vigor. How do we do this?

Get in your bibles. Meditate (chew) on the word. Pray in the Spirit ALL THE TIME. You won't make it if you don't. Sure you may make heaven, but you'll get there way too soon. God has a work for the Body of Christ to do. It is more than sitting on pews. Soldiers who sit with eyes close are sitting ducks. The enemy is on the warpath and he's got 1/3 of the angels working with him to deceive the bride of Christ. (We are that bride.)

If I had a shofar that you could hear right now I'd be blowing it with all of my might. I'd be on the wall blowing it for every believer to hear for the battle rages on and our God is calling us to arms. We must keep our hearts and minds grounded on HIS eternal unchanging word. If not all the nasty news, lies of the enemy, tree of knowledge of good and evil will become our food and we'll fall for the same thing that took our first father Adam down.

1 Peter {5:6} Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: {5:7} Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. {5:8} Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: {5:9} Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. {5:10} But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle [you.]{5:11} To him [be] glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

An Encouraging Word

I have been compiling a list of some of my favorite scriptures. These are verses that lift my soul when things look bleak. We all need encouraging from time to time and I trust that these shall fit the bill.

Proverbs {10:22} The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Philippians {2:13} For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.

1 John {5:14} And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: {5:15} And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

3 John {1:2} Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Jude {1:24} Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, {1:25} To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

1 John {5:18} We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Philippians 3:3 {3:3} For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Colossians {1:27} To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:



Hebrews 6:12 {6:12} That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Ministry in the Works

We are in the midst of many things and for this reason we covet your prayers. The adversary would like to block or stop completely the work of Christ, but if we band together in unity (love) and prayer we can stop his attacks.



1. We have ordered Arabic bibles for a young pastor in Turkey. We pray they will arrive timely and we will be able to get them to him quickly and he won't have to pay high customs fees. We also pray for protection for him and the 30 plus believers he is pastoring. They live in a predominantly Muslim city and persecution is a reality for them. This young man has also asked for teaching outlines and so we send him what we have.
2. Jeff continues to teach the first principles of the doctrines of Christ and the enemy would love to stop the work there. As an apostle he is responsible for putting a true foundation under the Body of Christ where he has been sent. At present he teaches in Odessa, Texas, Lovington, Hobbs and Roswell, NM.
3. We sent bibles to three congregations in Nigeria, but one customs agent has levied huge fees on one shipment. The people there do not have the money and don't know about trusting God for such things. We ask for supernatural provision and favor so that they can get the ransomed bibles.
4. Belarus is under huge oppression at present. The leader is a communist dictator and has expelled the American ambassador from the country. Our leaders have cut the staff to Belarus in half at the demands of the leader of this country. This means more oppression without any "prying" eyes or better said witnesses. We've had reports of much persecution and so the believers in this oppressive nation need our prayers. Our heart goes out to the ones we know and love there.
5. Prayer for the upcoming election. We need divine guidance in electing a leader. Whatever the outcome, we MUST trust God for our every need. We also need to pray for the current leadership. Just because we're in election mode doesn't mean we're supposed to forget those who lead us now. There is no such thing as a "lame duck" for those of us who are praying.
6. Praying for the widows, orphans and strangers in our personal sphere of influence. This is true religion, and not just prayer but earnestly seeking how we can bless and care for those who can't care for themselves. Why not visit someone you know is homebound. Bring him/her a nice hot meal, a bouquet of flowers, or go read the bible to him/her.
7. Pray for the persecuted Body of Christ. There are countless numbers of believers who are persecuted all over the planet. The enemy is on a last ditch rampage against the work of Yeshua and we must be in intercession for them as well as seeking ways we can alleviate the pressure the enemy is placing on the Body of Christ. Do not be fooled, persecution will hit this country as well because the ungodly are led by an insane fallen angel.
8. The greatest tool against terrorism is the written word of God, especially the New Testament. Why not find out how you can distribute bibles where God needs His word most.