

First Light Herald

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A, B, Cs of Faith

Faith Hears and keeps hearing the Voice

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by **hearing, and hearing** by the Word of God (Yeshua/Jesus).

Faith Comes

Rom 10:17 So then faith **cometh** by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Yeshua/Jesus).

Faith Sees

Prov. 29:18 Where there is no **vision**, the people perish: but he that keepeth (guards it in his/her heart) the law, happy is he.

James 1:7-8 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A **double minded** man is unstable in all his ways. (Double minded: of two spirits or vacillating between two views).

Faith Speaks

Ps 116:10 I **believed** therefore have I **spoken**:

Faith Acts

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith **without works** (corresponding action) is dead?

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith **without works** (corresponding action) is dead also.

Faith Stands

Eph. 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having (overcome) done all, to stand.

Heb. 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Faith Rejoices

Neh. 8:10 For the **joy** of the LORD is your strength. (Not happiness based upon situations and circumstances, but joy that comes when we please God.)

Faith Rests

Heb. 4:11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that **rest**, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (No rest? Chances are good you're in unbelief.)

We are called children of faith because of Father Abraham. Everything we receive from God must be done by faith. There is order to obtaining faith and then walking and using faith. Much like a gardener would plant seed and tend it we must tend our "seeds" of faith and care for them until they produce the substance or matter that we are believing for.

Heb. 11:6 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.

Hab. 2:4 But the just shall live by his faith.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

My words are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh.

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A, B, Cs of Faith.....continued



A, B, Cs of Faith

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Let's use Noah and his life as our example of practical application of the steps of faith.

Noah heard God tell him to build an ark.

Step one: Noah heard the Voice of God.

Noah added faith (trust in God and what He had said) to what he heard. He began to observe how to build the ark. He listened to God because he was a righteous man before God and found favor. He got the vision of how to build the ark.

Step two: Noah had faith come to him.

Step three: Noah saw what God wanted

Noah was called a preacher of righteousness. 2 Peter 2:5

Step four: Noah spoke what he heard.

Noah built the ark according to God's directions.

Step five: Noah acted on what he heard and saw.

Noah had to sit for seven days in the ark. It also took 120 years to finish the ark so he had to be willing to devote his whole life to what he heard God say and command.

Step six: Noah stood on what he heard no matter what and in spite of what it looked like.

Noah built an ark to celebrate God's faithfulness.

Step seven: Noah rejoiced.

Noah rested from his work and let God do His cleansing work.

Step eight: Noah rested.

When we get instructions from the Lord we need to go through these steps of faith to assure we can "finish our course". We have a goal ahead of us and the only way to achieve it is to take each step of the ladder, one rung at a time.

One last thought. We all have things we want to do, but those things aren't necessarily what God wants done. So if you ever find yourself working and working and striving and striving with no results you might consider the chance that you may be fighting against God's plan. The sooner each of us submits to God's plan and will the sooner we'll see divine involvement and results.

Preparation

Heb 11:6-7 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. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness, which is by faith.

I have much to say about these words written to the Hebrews, but as of yet I can't but touch on a few of them. In order to allow the Holy Spirit to expound on things to come we must begin to enter into a greater understanding of the righteousness we have been MADE by the finished work of the Messiah/Christ Jesus. If we look for why all the trouble in the earth and where it will happen next without really "knowing" who we are in Christ fear will become the driving force behind our searching. With a sure foundation of who we are in Christ we will always walk in the faith needed to endure all things. The promises of God are sure for those who believe and bring certain condemnation to those who will not. Nothing will change in the way our Father has worked with believing people and the payment will not change for the people that refuse to. We, the people of God, can truly live in a higher place, one that is safe from any and all trouble even while being in the very midst of it. God promises to be "with" us in trouble and to deliver us out of trouble but never said He would take us out of the way where trouble happens. We are to be beacons of hope and the light of life to those stuck in darkness. But because most really don't believe that God will deliver them they stay quiet in the storm and are over taken many times by fear, simply because their faith is dead and not being acted upon. If we look at every person in Hebrews 11, (The hall of faith) we see each one was "doing" what he or she believed faith required of them. Some lived their faith up to death dying in faith knowing they had a better place ahead. When the body of Christ begins to be sifted in the colander of trouble it will be those of us that truly "know" who we are in Christ that will endure to the end. That does not necessarily mean the end of the trouble; it could very well mean the end of our life on earth in this flesh body knowing we have a better place. But each one of us has a called out position and a job to fulfill while we are here and it generally is not the worldly employment we are currently being paid for. God is not asking everyone to quit his or her job, He is asking the body of Christ to do what He has asked us to do wherever we are employed. That requires faith in Him keeping His word while we are living faith where everyone around us can see that you serve a God that rules in the kingdom of men.

1 Peter 3: 19-20 *By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

Preparation.....continued

There you have it; the job within your employment is to preach the word to the ones in prison. You that are in Christ will never be in prison again! All those that are not in Christ are in prison and you have the key to their cell door. God is waiting once more with longsuffering for the body of Christ to fill the ark that Christ Jesus built. We are not called to build the ark, we are called to preach righteousness to the people in prison and fill the ark. The work of building Jesus said *He would do* he sent us into the world of darkness to shine bright and light the way out for the ones still in darkness. We were told beforehand that many for His name's sake would hate us but that was not a reason given to us to hide from the ones that would hate us. Most of the body of Christ does not know anyone hates them for His name's sake because people around them have no idea they know His name.

All of the hiding under a bushel stems from being unskillful in the word of righteousness. So allow me to insert an article from a previous letter that I believe is of paramount importance to understand in our lives. Faith comes by **hearing**, not just having heard once. So hear and hear and keep on hearing.

Righteousness Consciousness



Light thinking.

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Let me begin by making this statement: Righteousness is the biggest blessing of being born-again! It is the greatest blessing of the New Covenant simply because all of the other things of God are connected to it. Being in right standing with the Father is what righteousness means. Now before we read any more scripture the Lord has instructed us to first look at a couple things and then establish them in our hearts. We need to know that righteousness is a free gift. I have another thing I want to share with you before we read because I want it to be in your mind as we read the word concerning this subject: Remember that there are words that have double meanings. I am talking about words that have one meaning in the church house and the same word will have a totally different meaning when used in the world.

You use the word *righteousness* all the time. We have in the constitution of the United States government and in the way this country was established the use of the basic fundamental meaning of righteousness. Righteousness literally means being in

right standing or really the English word righteous means “rightness”, being right, having rights and privileges. Do we not have a bill of rights? Do you know what that is? If you explained that or amplified the name of that document, “the bill of rights”, it would be something like this: it is the bill of being in right standing with United States government. Now, I don't know how many of you have ever traveled outside the United States, but some of you have I'm sure. When you came back into the booth where the customs man stands you are not legally on United States soil until that customs agent has cleared you and you get over there on the other side of the gate. Let me tell those of you that may have never had the opportunity to travel outside the US. It's a cool feeling being over on the outside when you walk up to that customs agent and he's looking you up one side and down the other. He has the right to search you he has the right to reach over and look in your ear if he wants to. Because your ear doesn't belong to you as long as you are on the outside of that fence. Now once you get over on the other side and get cleared through customs then again you have certain rights and privileges. You have certain rights as a United States citizen. As long as you are obeying the laws of this government and not infringing upon the rights of other people or trying to overthrow this government you have these certain rights and privileges. You have rights simply because you are a citizen of the United States. You'll never appreciate fully those rights and privileges until you go into another country that doesn't have those rights or privileges and hang around over there for a while. You will find out yours certainly don't apply. Let me tell you, you don't know what it's like when you stand up and stomp your foot and say look I've got some rights around here and no body pays any attention to you. They just go right ahead and strip search you while you're trying to get them to understand you have rights you are an American! They don't care about any of that. They are going by their laws not the laws of the United States and you are suddenly aware that you basically have no rights in their country.

That is exactly what the bible calls righteousness, being in right standing with God. Plus thank God we have an advocate with the Father. The Lord is the advocate of the church or body of Christ. Do you know what the word advocate means? It is a lawyer a counselor. You've got legal representation in heaven even when you break the rules of the kingdom of God. You can go to your lawyer and confess your guilt and when the devil starts to come against you because of it your lawyer will get on your case. He'll fix it for you and He'll cleanse you from all unrighteousness. In other words He'll keep you in right standing before the Father (the judge). Isn't that great? Praise God Jesus is our advocate between you and the devil and you and the judge! You need to understand that. As we look into the scripture let me remind you of this, when you come across words in the book of Romans and 1st and 2nd Corinthians particularly in the Apostle Paul's writings this subject of righteousness is the key word to all of Paul's letters. Righteousness is the main key to the entire reason for all of his writing. If you get an understanding of the word righteousness you won't have any problem understanding the New Testament because that's what it's all

Righteousness.....continued

Prov 14:12 & 16:25 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

about. It is about Jesus of Nazareth putting us in right standing with the Father with His righteousness. Occasionally you'll find the word justified and justification but in the Greek text it is the same word. The translators have taken the liberty to translate it justifica-

tion in one place and righteousness in another but it literally means the same thing. It takes on a more legal aspect when it talks about being justified. For instance in a court of law where there is true justice and judgment has been made and the judge has judged a man as free he walks out of that courtroom justified. He was innocent or justified in what he did. In other words that courtroom and its judge has justified him and you better keep your hands off of him because he is just as free as you are. Can you see that? That is another side of righteousness. Jesus has MADE us to be in right standing with the Father. The high court of heaven has justified you and pointed the scepter of righteousness at you and satan better leave you alone.

Now if you do not stand for that righteousness and that redemption then there is little to nothing that God can do for you. That is part of your armor (the breastplate in fact). Even though you are redeemed, the devil is a liar and a thief and a killer and a destroyer and he doesn't have to have a legal right to come at you. If he can make you let him come at you through your own consent, he will do anything and everything he can get away with. But if you'll stand on you're rights as a justified child of God, if you stand on your rights he doesn't have any room to stand. If you will apply this over in the area of our bill of rights it follows suit, you have what you stand for. Let's take for example the Emancipation Proclamation made back at the close of the civil war. It stated that there was absolute freedom for every citizen of this country, but it was 100 years before the black man stuck his heels in the ground and said, "You're not going to do this to us any more". "You are not going to enslave me any more" and "I'm not going to ride in the back of the bus".

At that point in history folks discovered whether the Bill of Rights had anything behind it or not. They found out whether the law that was put on the books really worked and thank God it did. When somebody actually stood on it and it worked. What I want to point out to you is that the black man was as free 100 years ago as he was 100 years later. He was as free in 1865 as he was in 1965. As far as the law was concerned he was just as free the day that law was passed as the day he began to demand it be upheld. Why weren't they living free in that 100-year period? Because no one was putting the demand on the legal side of the law that said they were free. The same thing is true in the world of the spirit. In fact that is a perfect picture of what goes on in the world of the spirit because satan was the author of all that slavery junk. He is the one that puts people in bondage and he knows that if natural un-born-again men get the chance to

lord it over another man they will take it. All led by the devil. It doesn't matter what color people are they could be pink and someone would put his heel on their neck. When all this got started satan fanned it to ruin this country's testimony to the rest of the world. The testimony of what a free people living in a free country could accomplish, but thank God he got beat there too. Again the same thing is true in the world of the spirit. When we take authority and stand on that right standing given us by Jesus, when we just stand up to sickness, disease poverty and anything else that the thief comes to do the devil loses. He came of course is to steal kill and destroy, but we just stand up and say, "Look here devil I've got rights in the kingdom of God I have been delivered from the authority of darkness and have been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son". "You are not going to put that on my household or me. I am not going to put up with it I'm the righteousness of God. It will work, it will work! I've heard some people say well you know I tried that for two days". Let's use the illustration that we had earlier, there were individual black people, Indian people, and there were individual men down through the ages that stood for their civil rights individually and went right on to the top. Yet there were other people that stood up for their rights a couple three days and after the pressure got so great they just quit. It is still the same way today in the natural as well as in the spirit. When people decide that they are just not going to give up on their rights, that something else is going to have to give. That no matter what comes they decide to set their feet like flint and stand on their rights, they will go over the problem. Well something else will give way because the law works on their behalf.

Now you get to dealing in heavens affairs and I am going to tell you something folks, in heaven the law works on your behalf! God's word is law! When you know God said it and you stand on it you have all of heaven backing your rights as a citizen of the kingdom of God. There are no corrupt judges in heaven; there are no corrupt law enforcement agencies in heaven. There is no corruption when it comes to the word of God. Satan does not have a prayer when a believer will stand on what God has said in His word. I hope this has given you some clear insight into what righteousness means. It is right standing with God. Righteousness is the ability to stand in the presence of a holy God without a sense of sin or fear. No condemnation knowing you belong there because Jesus said you do. He fixed it for you.

To be continued...

Submission is Voluntary

Submission is not a four letter word, but you would think so if you've ever seen the faces of folks when you share on the subject. Clearly the ones who react so negatively have no clue what submission is and how powerful it is when used scripturally. Submission is a power tool and much like the power difference between a handsaw and a chainsaw, if used properly can

Submission.....continued

do great things.

*Gen 16:9-10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and **submit thyself** under her hands. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will **multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.***

OT: 6031 `anah (aw-naw'); a primitive root [possibly rather ident. with OT:6030 through the idea of looking down or brow-beating]; to depress literally or figuratively, transitive or intransitive (in various applications, as follows):

KJV - abaseself, afflict (-ionself,), answer [by mistake for OT:6030], chastenself, deal hardly with, defile, exercise, force,

There is NO other name given amongst men whereby we MUST be saved. What is that name? Yeshua

gentleness, humble (self), hurt, ravish, sing [by mistake for OT:6030], speak [by mistake for OT:6030], submitself, weaken, X in any wise.

*1 Cor 16:15-16 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye **submit yourselves** unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.*

NT:5293 hupotasso (hoop-ot-as'-so); from NT:5259 and NT:5021; to subordinate; reflexively, to obey:

KJV - be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submitself unto. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

When I find myself in a situation where God requires me to submit I don't worry and fret over it like He was asking me to do the worst possible job. I do know that it will mean sacrifice, but I know He never asks anything of me that He hasn't already accomplished in His Son, Yeshua/Jesus. If He asks me to do a thing, He has already required it of His Son. Yeshua/Jesus never failed at a single thing he did, so I'm in good company when asked to be like him. I also know that there are promises to the willing and obedient; they shall eat the fat of the land. When a

wife is required to take the secondary position I know it isn't a lesser position, but merely second in order. The end result is always a good thing. If you take the time to look at all the references to submission you will notice a pattern. The pattern is that it must be done voluntarily. No one is ever forced to submit. God always says, "Submit yourself". God never says, "Be forced to submit by a cruel taskmaster".

Once there was a man who went on a journey. He came to a fork in the road and noticed that there were two paths to the destination he was headed. One road was smooth and straight without a single pebble or obstacle to overcome. You could see the end of the road from the beginning. The other road was full of potholes, rocks, logs and boulders. He couldn't see the path the second road took much of the time. He had to choose which road he would take. Not being one to make snap decisions he thought seriously about the choices he had. Sure the one road was smooth and easy, but it posed no challenges and held no secrets. The other road was full of obstacle to overcome and was filled with mystery. If he chose the easier road he'd get to his destination quicker, but what would he gain? Clearly there were no treasures to be found on the easy road. Also the man enjoyed the thought of a challenge. He might stumble and fall while on the second path, but he'd be strengthened by all the many obstructions.

The road to the kingdom of God is upstream. It is full of opportunities to fail, fall and die. But the life of faith is full of adventure and mystery. Submission is one of the obstacles to our walk of faith. It isn't the easiest path. It's far easier to just do what feels good or is the most comfortable, but eventually one gets tired of the path with no resistance, but it's usually too late to turn around at the point of this revelation.

The Lord took the path of the suffering servant. For what purpose? First to accomplish the will of God and secondly he knew that God was a good Father and gave only good and perfect gifts. God asks us to submit ourselves, anything else would be oppression. You have many roads ahead in your life, which one will you choose?



Tithes & Offerings..continued



Covenant offerings aren't gifts, bribes or payoffs. They are true expressions of love and gratitude for all that God has done.



Rebuilding.....continued

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Jeff & Cerise's Schedule
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			