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Mixing Faith With God's Word  
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We have recently learned about the different types of covenants, which the Lord made with the believers, the old covenant covered what the children of Israel were taught with the shedding of the blood of bulls and goats, but it was only for a period of time and had to be repeated yearly; on the other hand, the new covenant which was provided by Jesus and His willingness to go to the cross with the shedding of His blood, provided the believers with complete forgiveness, which only had to be done one time. Jesus is our new covenant, finishing everything that we will ever need, healing, forgiveness of sins which are not only covered with His shed blood but they are blotted out forever, seated at the right hand of God and being an intercessor for us. These covenants are a result of faith. It is important for us to know how to mix faith with whatever we are doing in our Christian walk and not only must we begin in faith but we must continue in faith and finish in faith.

Heb 4:2 "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." KJV

The children of Israel heard the word of God preached, they heard the answer but they didn't mix faith with the word so it was of no benefit to them. We must mix faith when we hear the word preached in order for it to become a benefit for us.

Jude 3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly \*contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." KJV

Jude tells us that it was important for him to write and to exhort the believers to contend for the faith. \*Contend means to keep pursuing don't stop, don't give up.

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." KJV

As believers under the new covenant that has been provided for us, we have been given that measure of faith. In contending for faith which is on the inside of us, we need to begin to grow and develop. We may face times in our walk, that there are small interruptions to our faith, but because of seeds that have been planted and our standing on the word, God always has a way of working out those problems.

God has given all of us dreams, plans, purposes or a destiny that has maybe not come to pass as of yet but we are still believing for an answer. When we reach a destiny or dream there is usually completion, but we will have to stay in faith, continuing to believe God not losing our hope or becoming disappointed. We will have to walk in faith.

In Matthew chapter 8, Luke chapter 8 and Mark 4, Jesus has been teaching his disciples regarding the parable of the sower and that if they didn't understand this parable then they would not understand the way the kingdom of God works on earth. He continues teaching them but they still did not

understand the fullness of what He was saying, He then told them that they needed to "pass over to the other side", they had a mission to accomplish. On the other side was the man with the demons, woman with the issue of blood and Jarius' daughter who was dying. Jesus had told them that they were to pass over; there was no wondering whether it was Gods will or maybe they should just start, He said the "other side". However their journey was interrupted by a storm that arose on the sea.

Mark 4:35-41 "And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. 36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. 37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" KJV

Jesus was asleep and they woke Him. Upon rebuking the storm and the sea becoming calm, He asked them why they were so fearful. They had been afraid that they would perish, the storm did not strengthen them but brought fear. He then told them that they had no faith. They had heard the word spoken by Him, but without faith, it had been impossible for them to receive what He had said, they had not mixed faith with the word that He spoke. It was possible that the disciples didn't believe what Jesus had said to them. The devils plan had been to sink the boat, ending the ministry that they had before them. How do we know that it was the devils plan? Jesus would have not rebuked the storm. The only way for them to reach the other side was by faith but they didn't have any so all they could see was their perishing.

Heb 4:2 "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." KJV

Any time while on our journey that we have received a word from God or a destiny or dream is being fulfilled, we will encounter resistance or storms. The question is what are we going to do when storms are encountered? How are we going to finish our course? The enemy will lay a trap for us and unless we mix faith with God's word we may find ourselves in that trap the enemy has placed before us. The enemy causes the storms in peoples' lives, some of the storms we cause ourselves, but most of the time it is the enemy who causes them. The storm did not strengthen their faith, Jesus told them they had no faith, the storm brought fear. God does not employ the devil to test His people, the religious people think that God uses the devil to test people, this is not true.

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." KJV

What happens with fear? Fear will contaminate faith. If we have a measure of faith but allow fear to come in, it will contaminate the faith that we have. Fear and faith are opposite forces, fear comes from the kingdom of darkness, faith comes from the kingdom of light and they both work on the same principle, the bible teaches us that the things that we are afraid of and fear will come on us. Jesus says if you can just believe all things are possible. So the things that we have faith and are believing for are on the way. Those things we have fear in are on the way, the kind of fears that we have believed in for a period of time, not just everyday things that come up.

Faith works like natural food, natural food gives us energy to accomplish the things and do the work that we need to. We can go without food for a period of time. Faith works exactly the same way in

the spiritual realm.

Matt 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." KJV

What does the word do for us? When we begin to mix faith with the word, it begins to energize us spiritually, however, if we are over in the area of fear all we will see is the negative, that was all the disciples could see, that they were going to perish, that God didn't even care, Jesus ask them why they were so fearful? The bible kind of faith will always dispel fear. When mixing faith with the word of God a positive effect is created, but when fear is mixed with the word of the devil it has the potential to create the negative.

Many times as we view something of the negative without realizing what has happened, a spirit of fear has entered into the picture of what we have seen, if we allow all the bad things that are mentioned or said about what we have seen to form a picture in our minds, we have allowed the enemy to attack us. The word of God gives us the authority to stand against the enemy and overcome the attack by speaking words of faith.

Faith is a little bit like money, the more we have of it, the more we can do. Many people have the desire to finance the gospel, but just don't have the funds to be able to do so. They know that God has what would be needed and it is accessible to us by faith, but if our faith is not where it should be regarding finances, then we find ourselves unable to do much. As our faith grows we will begin to be able to access what God has available to us knowing that it is God's will. That is where faith and money are alike, the more you have the more you can do. We can grow our faith.

What was the conversation that the disciples had regarding passing over to the other side? They spoke of not being able to do it, they were looking at the circumstances around them and could see no other way to continue. If we are going to walk by faith when storms come, our conversation must be in alignment with what God has spoken to us and what we are believing for, we must keep the switch of faith turned on, God will provide all we need, regardless of circumstances in the natural. Faith accesses any promise we find in the word, but our conversation must line up with what Gods word says. Jesus will not forsake us when we stumble in the midst of the storm, He is there just waiting for us to reach out to Him and He will meet us there, He is for us reaching our destiny, the destiny or dream came from him.

2 Tim 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" KJV

Paul had kept the faith and was writing to Timothy telling him even though he might be going through a difficult time, he reminded him that same faith that was in his grandmother and mother was also in him. They had \*unfeigned faith. Their faith was genuine, it was honest. During the hard times that you are encountering, remember that you have this same kind of faith that they had.

"feign" means being false or hypocritical, you tend to do one thing and then do something else.

2 Tim 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the \*unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." KJV

In order for us to finish our course and fight a good fight we must hang on to our faith. Our conversations must be in alignment with what God has spoken to us.

Luke 22:31 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as

wheat:" KJV

Jesus is speaking to Peter telling him of a plan that the enemy has for him, but Jesus also has a plan for him.

Mark 5:22-24 "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him." KJV

Mark 5:35-43 "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe." KJV

Mark 5:35-43 "While He was still speaking, there came some from the ruler's house, who said [to Jairus], Your daughter has died. Why bother *and* distress the Teacher any further? 36 *Overhearing* but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, **Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing**. AMP

Jairus had come to Jesus asking for him to come and pray, his daughter was dying, Jesus' response was that he would go, however, along the way there were interruptions, but as they continued, word came that the daughter had died. Is Jairus going to keep contending for the faith or keep contending for what God has promised him through Jesus or is he going to give up? Jesus knew that a negative word had been spoken and He knows the outcome of negative circumstances, but Jesus spoke to Jairus telling him not to be afraid but only to continue to believe. Jairus probably had some doubt in his mind because of what had happened with the woman with the issue of blood, but he is on his way to a miracle and continues to believe what Jesus has spoken to him.

This is an example of negative circumstances because, it is what most of us deal with, saying we can't do what God says we can do or we are not going to receive what God has promised us and we let circumstances dictate to us where we keep believing the negative, but God's plan is that we allow God's word to dictate to us. God's word doesn't change. If we are having a diet of God's word by renewing our minds, it will determine whether we keep believing or not. We can listen to other people teaching the word, because faith comes from hearing the word, but nothing will inspire us like reading God's word and meditating on what it says ourselves.

Contending means to take on a struggle. Jesus said don't let fear in, fear will contaminate your belief system, we start believing what we are fearing, we say we are tired of believing but if we are believing in the God kind of faith it is different than a natural belief. Our conversation must keep in line with what God has promised when we are tempted to quit believing because of circumstances. Just keep following Jesus and believing what He has said. We will have opportunity to listen to what others are saying to us, that will cause our conversation to go astray from what we are believing for. Keep the switch of faith turned on. Faith supercedes circumstances that are contradictory to the bible.

1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." KJV

God sees us as overcomers but our faith must be engaged. Don't let fear contaminate our faith, keep our conversations in alignment with what Gods has promised.