

January 22, 2017

2017 Faith Awakens
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

A word was given by Pastor Margaret:

"A breakthrough is coming in your life, if you will rejoice at what you see with your eyes of faith instead of looking at what you see with your natural eyes, then heaven will get involved and what your faith sees will become something that you can see with your eyes." This word is for anyone needing a breakthrough, receive it from the Lord.

We are all aware of what has happened this last week regarding the recent change and transition of our government and people from this part of the country are especially happy and rejoicing for the change. This is a new beginning not only for our country but also for our church, the church world as a whole. We have four years to take advantage of the opportunity that has been given to us. People have been crying out in prayer for a deliverer and God has heard those prayers and raised up a man for that purpose. We must hold this man and his administration up on a daily basis in prayer for guidance and wisdom in all decisions that he will have to make. God admonishes us through the word that it is our responsibility to pray for those in authority in order to live a quiet and peaceable life.

1 Tim 2:1-3 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;" KJV

This new year will be profitable to all believers as they continue to believe the Lord. We have learned from a noted bible scholar that the number 17 means victory and resurrection, we now have this opportunity to prosper, if we will believe what the word teaches, that the faithful will flourish. The blessings of God are laid out before us to walk in victory. How do we access all the blessings that God has for us? Faith sees beyond the answer. Faith is the key that gives access.

Resources have been laid up for the believers. There will be believers who will not chose to accept the fact that the Lord wants to prosper them and if they continue with that belief they will not receive; at the end of the next year they will be as they are now. They don't know how to access the blessings that are there.

This will probably be one of the greatest years of the believers' lives, as restoration, prosperity, revelation knowledge, an anointing from God or whatever we might have need of, we will be able to walk in it. We must not be apologetic or hold back and be religious, but have great boldness declaring the plan and purpose of God for our lives and the lives of others. Anything that we receive from God must be mixed with faith.

Rom 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a *right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 2 Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice *and* exult in our hope of experiencing *and* enjoying the glory of God." AMP

Psa 31:19 "Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" KJV

* right standing has been given to us through Jesus Christ - grace is always associated with power and we access

through faith

Faith is the key that gives access. Faith sees beyond the poverty, problems, challenges, pain, sickness or disease, faith sees beyond and sees the answer. When faith sees the answer we enter into a rest and we have joy and thanksgiving. If we are going to have access to what has been promised, we are going to need knowledge on walking in faith. Faith is more than just mentally assenting to the word of God, faith has revelation knowledge, we know that things will turn out alright. Faith is not just a formula.

Hab 2:4 "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but *the just shall live by his faith.*" KJV

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.*" KJV

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.*" KJV

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

Being just before God, means that we have a responsibility to begin to live by faith, we are in right standing because of Jesus.

Psa 78:41 "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." KJV

We don't want to limit God in this time of our lives.

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

Rom 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." KJV

Rom 10:17 "Consequently faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ." New English

Weeks translation says "faith comes from teaching the word of Christ"

21st Century translation says "faith is a result of teaching"

Berkley translation says "that faith results from hearing"

Do we have a faith problem because we are not hearing? a belief problem because we aren't hearing or is it a result of not being taught? Faith comes by being taught and hearing what is taught. We must be careful as to what we are hearing or being taught, either positive or negative, it will affect our faith. The measure of faith that we have on the inside, sometimes becomes a little weak because of not feeding it, we're not hearing, but when we begin to hear the word of God, that measure of faith rises up, enables us to walk in victory regardless of circumstances that come, the adversity may not change but we will change and have victory. Keeping joy, regardless of what comes our way. There is joy in this following scripture.

Psa 23:1-6 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." KJV

Faith that is on the inside of us is from a continual feeding of the word of God.

The disciples had just come down from the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, Elijah and Moses talking about coming events, they came down from that experience and they were faced with a circumstance that they were not able to handle. In Matthew 9 and 10, they had been given the authority to handle the demons that plagued people, when confronted with a man who had a demonic son, they were unable to cast the demon out of him, they asked Jesus why this had happened and His reply to them was because of their unbelief.

Matt 17:20 "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." KJV

Faith needs daily attention, faith is now, hope is future. Hope brings miracles and restoration. Faith is fresh every morning like the dew from heaven, faith is to be fed to us daily, kept alive in order for it to work for us. Hope is a great thing. We are entering a season where faith will be working and we will be speaking the answer and will be having joy.

This verse is also teaching how faith works, starts like a small grain of seed which grows up into a larger thing. We should be planning on having growing faith for this new year. Little faith will take care of smaller problems but bigger problems requires growing bigger faith.

What happens when we believe that we have heard from God or have recently heard an inspiring message, we were excited but then in a short period of time something happened that caused us to lose our hope? How do we react when it looks like all is gone, do we give up? Saying is this the will of God? That He is trying to teach us something? Or do we begin to believe that nothing is impossible with God? This year will bring restoration to the body of Christ for all the past things that have been done.

Rom 4:16 "Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (unmerited favor), to make it stable *and* valid *and* guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the devotees *and* adherents of the Law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who is [thus] the father of us all." AMP

What had been promised to Abraham depended entirely on faith, but it has also been promised to us through Jesus Christ. Abraham was blessed abundantly, we are entitled to that promise but it is based on our faith. If we want to enjoy the blessings, then we should be getting serious about learning everything we can regarding faith and how it works.

In reading the following scriptures we learn the story of the Shunammite woman, her life and circumstances that she faced, what she was believing God for and how she was able to attain that promise, she was a woman of substance, was a giving woman, sowing of what she had been blessed with, she was a great woman of faith, had revelation knowledge, recognizing Elisha as being a man of God,

2 Kings 4:8-37 "And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. 11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him. 13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people. 14 And he said, What then is to be done

for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old. 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. 16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life. 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. 21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out. 22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again. 23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well. 24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee. 25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well: 27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me. 28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me? 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child. 30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her. 31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. 32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord. 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out." KJV

v. 16 don't lie - she was looking at the natural, would need a miracle in order to receive her son - she knew she had received a word from the Lord and she never forgot - she had heard the promise made to her

v. 26 when asked about her son -she had a positive answer - her son had died but her response was in the positive - her husband questioned her actions - she refused to accept what had happened to her son - went to find the man of God -

v. 28 reaction - Gods plan never changed - do not deceive me - she refused to accept what had happened - she reminded the man of God what the word from the Lord to her had been

v. 30 goes with prophet - she had no intention of accepting her son's death - the prophet moved according to what the Holy Spirit instructed him to do

v. 37 received her promise - took up her son and went home

As believers we must learn to take our place of authority which has been given to us because of what Jesus has done for us. We have been given authority over all the attacks of the enemy, wherever or however they may come. Ephesians chapter 1,2,& 3 teach us the authority that has been given, but it is our responsibility to get into position and put that authority into action. We have the right to pled the blood of Jesus over everything that belongs to us, all that God has blessed us with and move into the heavenlies.

Isa 43:25-26 "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. 26 Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified." KJV

v. 26 put God in remembrance - this is the same thing the Shunammite woman did

It wasn't God that determined the outcome of her child, it was her faith. Many believers today make the statement that when something bad happens in their lives, that it must be Gods will or He is trying to punish or show them they may need correction. These statements are not something spoken in faith. Faith perceives as a real fact what is not revealed to our senses. Faith sees what God has promised, inherit a promise and the outcome is entirely on faith. We all have challenges in our lives, but we must continue to stand on the word, believing what has been said and we shall have the promise.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." KJV

The importance of our words makes a difference in what we are believing for, what we are speaking, the words that come out of our mouth are crucial to our faith. Growing faith means that nothing is impossible, if we are hearing and being taught the word of God, we are placing within ourselves growing faith.

Let us begin to speak these words, that **"favor and increase follow me wherever I go"** no matter where we are or what we might be doing. Make a habit of repeating this phrase, let it become a part of your life. This is the year for Gods favor and increase in our lives, a year of restoration.

Remember to pray for our new president, all his administration and for America.