

March 25, 2018

Hold Fast In Your Adversity

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We were taught previously in Hebrews 13 the following scripture. Jesus has not changed, He is the same and does not change. We examined the scriptures in the gospels of what Jesus' ministry was about and when the gospels were preached of the kingdom of God, they were followed with signs and wonders being made manifest.

Heb 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." KJV

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

Jesus had been teaching His disciples what was about to come. They had been given power over everything and yet they did not understand what this power they had was and were unable to help the people. Unbelief usually presses in when there are problems going on in our lives. We must have a growing faith in the form of a seed or the word and then we can speak to the problem not just talk about the problem.

Jesus came that we might have the God kind of life, because of His death and resurrection, everything has been provided for us, but it is our choice as to whether we receive it or not. Without us knowing the plan of God, it would be hard for us to realize the fullness of what He did and what He provided for us, the scriptures tell us that we are seated with Him right now.

Eph 2:6 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" KJV

The desire in each of us should be to see people free, healed, whole and delivered, this is how Jesus looked at the people that He came in contact with. There are examples in the bible of people who hearing the promises that God had made to them, held on for many years in order to see the manifestation of those promises. In previous teachings we heard several testimonies regarding people who had been

totally healed, but many of these healings required a period time, holding on to the promises that they had received. Standing in faith, waiting for the manifestation to become a reality, they had total healing in each case, they had made a choice and took a stand. Beginning to read and quote what the word of God said about their situations, faith begin to grow, it was progressive and had to be walked out. There is no room for doubt and unbelief, fear must be addressed with faith to see the manifestation that we are desiring and we must hold on to our confession knowing that He is faithful to what He has promised.

Heb 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;" KJV

Our confession is what is coming out of our mouth and we must say to the mountain or situation and in the process of time, it will come to pass. We must hold fast to our confession of faith and not be talking about the problem, not letting doubt creep into what we might be seeing in the natural. It is challenging many times to hold on to our confession of faith without wavering.

Rom 4:16-21 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." KJV

Paul gives an account in this scripture the promise that God had given to Abraham and Sarah regarding the birth of their son. If we begin to read in Genesis chapters 12 and read through chapter 17, we see all the things that they were faced with regarding that birth. In the natural they tried to help God with the event, but this was not what His plan for them was and we see that even though many years had passed, God was able to bring to manifestation that plan and promise. God had showed all the stars to Abraham, telling him that this was the amount of descendants that he would be having, innumerable. He also during this time changed the names of Abraham and Sarah and as they spoke to each other they were continually bringing

to pass that promise. (see Gen 17:4-5 and Gen 17:16 for their new names) They were growing quite old and still the birth of their son had not occurred, yet they continued to believe that what He had told them would come to pass. Sarah had given her handmaiden Hagar to Abraham in order to have their son, she bore a son and named him Ishmael, but this was not God's plan for them. Abraham was 75 years old when he received the promise, but he never gave up on that promise.

Gen 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." KJV

Jesus is the High Priest of our confession and is touched with the feelings of our infirmities. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father pleading our case, He is interceding for us, He is our advocate and right now is arguing our case before the Father. The promise that God has given to each of us is still alive, He hasn't changed His mind, our part is to believe and grow our faith, keep saying to the mountain be removed and nothing shall be impossible, this what God wants for us but it is our choice which we have to make.

Heb 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;" KJV

Heb 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." KJV

Rom 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." KJV

Paul is teaching the believers to come boldly before the throne of grace, reminding them of what they have received because of their new birth and what Jesus did for them when He gave His life for everyone and where He is now, seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, making intercession for all of them because He knows what everyone is going through, all the challenges that there are to life. We are reminded of the faith of Abraham, but we must have the bible kind of faith.

Rom 4:16-21 "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, 17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he *considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an

hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." KJV

New born again believers have a faith that make it easy to obtain things from the Lord, but as we mature in the Lord, we are expected to grow in our faith in a different way. Abraham kept believing where there was no hope, the circumstances that he was facing, were hopeless, there was no way in the natural, it had to be a divine intervention by God for the promise to come to pass. The bible says that Abraham was past the age of fathering children and that Sarah had passed the time of child bearing, there was no hope. How was this to come to pass? He had to continue to believe, he had the word on the inside and was convinced that God was faithful. That is the same way that we must believe the promises that we receive from the Lord. Holding fast to our confession. Abraham had developed from a weak faith to a strong faith. His challenge was he didn't consider the age of his body or that of his wife Sarah, they were able to have their child, even though all hope should have been gone. He kept his confession without wavering, he did not murmur or complain but gave God glory for what would happen.

*consider means to think about it, ponder it and to always be checking bodies for a response

An example was shared regarding an instance in the past where there had been an small accident of being struck in the eye, resulting in a cut on the eyelid and swelling and discoloration around the eye. Needing to get to a meeting in front of a new congregation, there was concern of what people would think had happened and being very conscious of how the eye looked, a group of people had prayed but the eye had not changed was still swollen shut and then one of those praying mentioned that they had been praying the wrong way, they had not been speaking to the mountain, the eye, but when correction was made, the bleeding quit and the eye begin to open, but everytime the eye was looked at in the mirror it began to shut again and still being concerned, a pair of mirrored sunglasses was put on to hide everything that could be seen by other people. It was hard not to take the glasses off and look at the situation, but much later after the glasses had been removed, it was found the swelling was gone and there was only a small white scar, however, there was still some discoloration which was covered up with application of some makeup. It was a lesson learned on how easy it is to have something minor to

happen and the follow up causing so much concern, not to consider the circumstances of what happened but believing that everything would work out according to what God had promised.

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

Gen 17:4-5 "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." KJV

Gen 17:16 "And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her" KJV

Abraham came to the place where he didn't talk about the impossibility of having the promise manifested. He had a revelation of what the promise involved, he would be fathering many children. Sarah had received the same promise, she had her doubts originally, but she realized that she would be the mother of all those children that God had promised them.

We must stand firm in whatever area of our lives we are needing a miracle, regardless of what our bodies may be saying, we are healed not letting pain dictate to us. The bible says that we are healed, that Jesus paid for that healing on the cross and it is ours to receive if we believe. God calls things that are not as they have already happened, we are growing in faith, we are declaring the word of God is spreading just like grass covering the ground. Signs and wonders to follow each of us. The ministry gifts that are on the inside of us beginning to be used to bless others.