

June 24, 2012

Taking The Limits Off God Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Taking the limits off God. Psalms tells us that the children of Israel limited God while in the wilderness.

Psa 78:40 *"How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!"*
KJV

However, most of our limits are self imposed. By the way we think and the way we see ourselves on the inside, not having a good self image because of things that have happened in the past. We need to be around people that give affirmation and not people pointing out all the faults and failures that we may have. We see ourselves not succeeding because on the inside we are afraid of success. We sometimes come right up to the point of succeeding, but because of the inside fear we won't finish, we don't know how to handle success therefore we are afraid.

We don't fully understand the goodness of God. God's goodness is from everlasting to everlasting. It is this goodness that brings us to repentance. God's goodness is always available.

Rom 2:4 *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* KJV

Luke 15 tells the story of the prodigal son and how he was welcomed back upon his return, but the son who had never left home was unhappy stating that the father had never done anything like that for him. He was told that it was always available to him at any time, but he had not asked.

God's goodness is always available to the church. It is more than enough.

Eph 3:20 *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"* KJV

Matt 16:18 *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* KJV

When we became believers, because of the new birth, we entered into a race, we began a journey. Resistance became part of that race. We sometimes are not aware of the resistance, however, we are more than conquerors and overcomers we can do all things through Christ because He strengthens us

2 Cor 2:14 *"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."* KJV

The people around us may see how we were knocked down but because of the power of God we were able to bounce back God's grace and mercy was working for us when we tapped into it. We are winners!

The imagination or image on the inside of us is powerful whether we want to believe it or not. Because the "me I see is the me I will really be"

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

Victory is the beginning of our walk as overcomers, and deals with our faith. Victory (gr. nike) it means success, it means conquest, having success in life. It is God's plan that if we are born again, that we overcome the world and have victory in life.

Jer 29:11 *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* KJV

When Jeremiah spoke these words the children of Israel were in captivity, the Lord said this was not His plan for them His plan was they would have a favorable outcome. This has not changed regarding us; it is still God's plan that we have a favorable outcome. Whatever we need, finances, healing or etc., it is still God's plan that our outcome is favorable. In order to have revelation of this plan, it must come by the Holy Spirit; it will come by a hearing ear, heard over and over again. God's plan is that we overcome in every circumstance of life, regardless of what the enemy throws against us. We cannot allow ourselves to be governed by what is going on in the world. God's plan is that we fly higher and higher over those things. We cannot put limits on God because of the circumstances around us.

The following scriptures give us insight on how to fly higher in Jesus and how to take our self imposed limits off of Him. There are no limits in Jesus; we limit Him by doubt and unbelief. How did these men listed do those things? It was done through their faith. They didn't wait until they were qualified; they took a step of faith in God's ability.

Heb 11:32-34 *" And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens."* KJV

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

This is where the challenge is in teaching and preaching, everything can be just right and still not profit. The word of God to be a profit and blessing to us and working with what God has promised must be mixed with faith. By taking the limits off God and allowing Him to work through us we mix faith with what He has promised. Without faith working and understanding the faith principles, we will never walk in what God has promised us.

Psa 78:40-41 *"How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!"*

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

God's plan for the children was to go to Canaan land, where everything was all ready for them. It was a land that was extremely blessed, but they had to possess it and because of what was there they turned back. What God has called us to do sometimes, there will be mountains or circumstances in the way, but greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world. Thanks be to God, that always causes us to triumph in every situation and whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory even our faith, we can slay the giants, our faith will not permit mountains from rising in our lives, but our faith will remove them.

Basic faith principles on how God works are in the following scriptures. If we can only learn how to believe and receive what God has done for us through His Son Jesus. The Bible says that as many as have received Him, they have been given the power to be sons of God. Paul tells us in Galatians that we are no longer slaves, but are sons of God. We must not serve God from a servants mentality which is always based on performance and fear. As believers we must learn to become sons of God in the Father's house and there we have privileges. We have favor of the Father, but we must learn to take the limits off of God

Mark 11:22-24 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 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

We have been given mountain moving faith. Jesus has given this kind of faith to ALL of us not to just certain ones. "Whosoever can, but everybody won't, but somebody will do it." Understanding the importance of what we say to release the favor of God, when bad circumstances happen, negative speaking is usually what we say and this is the enemies plan for us. The devil does not want us to say to the mountain, the tormenting spirits that is behind the scene that is challenging us to be removed. The devil needs to hear our voices; Jesus needs to hear our voice. "Whosoever says to the mountain be removed, cast into the sea and shall not doubt." (Doubt being what we see on the inside our inner image). Are we seeing victory or success or a winner on the inside? Are we afraid of failure or are we fearing? Faith is always the unknown.

We will not have what we say on the faith side, unless we can see it on the inside. Because if we can't see it on the inside then it is not in our heart. God is wanting us to take the limits off. He is wanting us to change the way we think. We must believe before we see, don't be deceived, we don't receive by seeing first. That is not the God kind of faith

When we are praying we are usually asking. Ask for the purpose to receive, knock for the purpose of it being opened and seek for the purpose of finding. When we desire or ask in prayer, the God kind of faith believes that we receive when we pray. Faith has corresponding actions. We cannot follow after the flesh; we must follow after the spirit. Grace follows the Holy Spirit. This is a growing process in us.

By not taking the self imposed limits off or having a poor self image of ourselves, this will result

in not knowing who we are and will cause us to believe that we are not worthy, this is what we see on the inside. We pass the goodness of God by, not receiving what Jesus did for us on the cross, He gave us the free gift of righteousness totally apart from works. We are not under works.

Rom 5:17 *"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."* KJV

Rom 5:17 *"For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)." AMP*

Much more, taking the limits off, We need to become receivers with abundance. We will rule and reign in life with Jesus. Jesus did the work for us. Jesus gave righteousness to us, it is a free gift. We have been put in right standing. When we were born again, we were picked up and put into Jesus. We are not in ourselves, we are in Jesus. From the Father's view point He sees us in and through Jesus. We are in right standing with the Father of the universe.

James 4:6-7 *"But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it). 7 So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you"* AMP

2 Cor 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* KJV

We cannot allow ourselves to become unworthy, because we miss the mark, we don't feel worthy to pray, we don't feel worthy of God's blessing in our lives. This is how religion thinks, we are worthy now because of Jesus God is a good God and wants the best for us.

Mark 5:25-28 *"And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole"* KJV

This chapter of Mark shows the greatness of God, it speaks of all the things that Jesus had done regarding the people, healings, deliverances and death. He was the lord over all these things.

The lady in this story took the limits off of God. She had suffered many years and had tried on her own to get healed, she was terminal, she had heard of the good things that Jesus had done. She said that if she could but touch the hem of his garment she would be made whole. She had a picture on the inside of being whole; she had it in her heart. She removed the self imposed limits. In her condition she could have been stoned for being out in public, but her determination was to reach out to Jesus and to receive her healing, she acted on her faith, with corresponding actions, she took the limits off God.

We have to see it on the inside, God's goodness and to see success based on the authority of the word of God. God is no respecter of person. If we have challenges in our lives, read what the word tells about us all those who took the limits off of God. What God did for them, He will do the same for us. But we must change the picture on the inside of ourselves.

God is waiting for us to take the self imposed limits off. And tap into God's limitless supply of grace and mercy...