

BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH

Building Blocks for Your Vision-Part 2

Lots of folks believe that we are on earth to go through a series of tests, some difficult and some extremely difficult. They believe that God puts us through these tests because He needs to count upon our allegiance. He needs to know that we will be faithful and stick to our guns under tremendous pressure. Well one of the things we have to bear in mind is that God already knows everything there is to know about us. He knows us through and through. He knows every strand of hair on our heads, and He knows the day and the time that we will exit this earth. So why then is a test necessary?

A test implies that one will either pass or fail; Jesus Christ accomplished everything needed to insure that failure is not an option. There is no denying that the difficulties of life teach us valuable lessons, but even before we encounter obstacles, tribulations, and problems we already have the victory in Christ! We can always win if we choose to.

This is the greatest truth known to humankind, although it is difficult for some of us to accept. Life beats up on us sometimes, and if we are not careful we can become conditioned to believe that we will fail. We can become so comfortable with disappointment that we are afraid to rally the courage to believe that we will succeed, but success and victory is in our Jesus gene pool; it's in us all. We just have to discover it.

Romans 5:2 NLT

2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

To discover success within ourselves is to be fully persuaded that God has a plan for our lives that is nothing short of spectacular. If we will but trust this one thing, we'll begin to realize that He has set us up for wonderment and joy, not failure. Everything will work together to bring us to this place of highest privilege as it says in Romans 5:2, if we'll only trust and believe.

God's greatest desire for us is to so learn to walk in Christ that we triumph over our circumstances, whatever they may be. Bit by bit, we can learn with each stroke of life's pen to walk in the victory that Christ made available.

When bad things happen, it is easier for us to say that God caused them than to bear any responsibility upon ourselves. Often we are deserving of that responsibility, but would rather remain in the dark about it and suffer, rather than to omit our faults and triumph. To admit fault when fault is due us in any situation-is to grow. It is to release the thing within that caused us

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pain, and to swap it out for the healing, restorative power of Jesus Christ. It is to lay aside the arrogance of our ways and pick up humility in its place.

1 Peter 5:6 NLT tells us *"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you."* In this verse we can truly see the heart of the Father. He wants us to be humble and pliable to His will so that He can cause us to be elevated, blessed, and ready to seize greater opportunities with more power, strength, and ability than we had before.

There is a reason for everything under the sun. We don't go through the wilderness just to admit that we've had a wilderness experience. We are going THROUGH IT to COME OUT OF IT on the winning side. Winning-conquering-overcoming, all give God the glory.

In John 11, we find that Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha, a man whom Jesus clearly loved, had fallen terribly ill and was believed to be near death. John 11:4 says, *"When Jesus heard [that], he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified."* It was not through Lazarus's death that God and His son would be glorified, if that had been so, then God would not have brought Lazarus back to life through Christ, but as always, it is in the overcoming that God receives the glory!

Romans 4:20 tells us that Abraham *"staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;"* One does not stagger unless he or she is in motion. If you remain stuck in your situation, no matter how good or how bad that situation may be, and you never moved beyond it, you would never know the power required to get up and get out of that situation so that you can embrace a new and better you. You will never build upon a foundation of believing power, but would continue to stay at that same level all the time. This is not how God designed the Christian walk.

Abraham *"staggered not..."* because he took God's Word and ran with it. He developed a vision for his life based on the directives and information he received from God. Without a vision—without the mentality to literally see himself possessing the promise, Abraham would not have moved. He would not have looked at his resources, looked at his wife, and thought *"how can I make this thing happen?"* Instead, he would have dismissed God's promise and said *"...As old as I and my wife are...no way!!!"*

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. He promised him a son. And Abraham set about to make it happen. Was he successful...of course he was. He made mistakes along the way, but he didn't give up on what God had said. Why? Because He had faith in God's Word; therefore he had the courage, imagination, and vision to see himself achieving the promise.

As a believer, you are required to have a vision for your life. Now is the time to hear and accept the Word of the Lord and to get excited by what He is doing in you and for you. If you don't

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believe that God will exceed your expectations and bless you far beyond what you've dreamed, then you won't move. You won't have the motivation to get to the place where you "*stagger not*", but if you'll see beyond where you are, if you'll have a vision and begin to start looking for the resources to make it happen, you will be utterly amazed and astounded at what God will do.

Yes, you've got to start looking for your miracle. Your breakthrough is here, and if you don't get busy seeking it out it'll pass you by. The building blocks are all around you. You have been strategically positioned and masterfully appointed...trust that! Sarah, Abraham's wife, was an integral part of God's plan. She was a very important part of the promise. God didn't tell Abraham that the promise would come through a woman who was a thousand miles away. Sarah, his wife, was planted in Abraham's environment. She was elderly, and perhaps didn't look like she could ever deliver on the promise, but we know that things don't have to always look like we think they should in order to be a blessing.

The more Abraham believed, the more his eyes opened up to the possibility of what was before him. And that's what we have to do. We have to continually pray, trust, and believe that God will help us muster the courage to open our eyes to the treasures that we can't yet see. Isaiah 45:3 NLT is a verse that we use so much you ought to know it by heart by now. It says "*And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness--secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name.*" The more you believe and trust that God is going to make your vision a reality, the more your eyes will see the treasures that were seemingly hidden until now. You simply must be willing to move, be persistent, and see what He is showing you.

The Word lays out the logical steps to building the vision we must have for our lives, and it's an amazingly wonderful thing. Don't gaze over your life and default to "*whatever will be will be.*" You are a bona fide, born again believer. Your steps are ordered; they march to victory's cadence. Blow out all the things that have held you back and breathe in a new groove. Get committed to your vision. We are made in God's image. He gave us the accoutrement of imagination and vision because these are the intelligent devices that propel us forward. Use them!

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