

"...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:8 *"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

Faith in God is shown by our prayer life. How strong is your faith? Faith in God is shown in our contentment in God, and what God has given to us as His children, how strong is your faith? Faith in the Lord is shown by our study of the scriptures and expanding our minds in His word, how is your faith? Our faith is gauged on attending church, working in the church, supporting the church, and not failing to be a supporting member of the Lord's church, not failing in attendance. Imagine our church eventually shutting our doors because we cannot support to do the work of God in this community, because our faith became so weak, we cared more about this world than God. **If Jesus came today, how strong will your faith be?**

- A. The context of this passage is dealing with the prayers of God's Elect. **Verse 1** *"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"*
1. God's people, every single child of God ought to learn how to pray and pray continuously.
 2. What is prayer, **prayer is OUR talking to God**, without prayer we are not corresponding with our Heavenly Father.
 3. It is our privilege and honor that we may pray. It is also our duty to pray, therefore we ought to pray, and we sin if we neglect to talk to our Heavenly Father.
 4. Our prayers shows our faith in God, the lesser the prayers the weaker the faith.
 5. Let's look at a few scriptures.
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** *"Pray without ceasing."* - Not without stopping, but about everything, much within your day.
 - b. **Luke 21:34** *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares."* - This example of

over indulging in the life on this world, we become drunk on worldly things, and that we care too much about our life here. It will cause us to have weak faith, a less prayer life, and less dependence on God. Remember **Luke 16:13** "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, **and despise the other**. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

- c. **Romans 12:12** "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" – We are to rejoice in the hope God has given to us in Christ, keeping that hope alive by strong faith in God. – In this when troubled times come, we can make it through them with much patience realizing that troubled times are a part of life. – Being CONTENT in the Lord means we should pray always, and not faint, trusting God to keep strong in faith.
- B. We must never lose heart in God, it is called staying CONTENT. V. 7 "shall not God avenge his own elect, **which cry day and night unto him**, though he bear long with them?"
 1. Do you have faith in God? Do you trust God? The cry out to Him day and night. No matter how bad the trials, persecutions, or tribulations get in life, never lose faith in God, never fail to pray. "**cry day and night unto him**"
 2. "shall not God avenge his own elect" V. 7 Please understand, Our Father tells us that He permits suffering among his servants, long after they have begun to pray for deliverance. However, we are commanded here to cry day and night unto him. This is our faith in God. Our failure in faith is to give up and fold under suffering. How strong is your faith!
 3. **V. 8** "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily..." Yes God will avenge His own elect, and in speedy fashion, in His own time. Because he has promised it!
 4. Our focus is to remain faithful till the end and that faith begins with a steady prayer life. A Christian falls when our communication with our Heavenly Father weakens or stops.
- C. Real and true faith is a gift from God.

1. **Ephesians 1:17 - 23** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: (18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (22) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." – **The world will not supply your needs, your needs are spiritual not fleshly, and your greatest asset in this life is your faith in God.**

2. **Matthew 16:17** "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." – Not just Peter, but all of us. It is all a gift in this life, faith is a gift, the question is what are we doing with God's gift?

D. Can our faith weaken or grow? Absolutely! Where is your faith!

1. Even the Lord's own disciples ask for an increase of faith. **Luke 17:5 - 6** "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. (6) And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

A. The context is about forgiving our failed brothers and sister in Christ, V.V. 3 – 4 Sometimes it takes greater faith to do it, and if we lack God will give it. Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;" The word author, means leader or captain of our faith, and finisher, means perfecter of our faith. This is not our human faith but our spiritual faith, our saving faith, our living faith, our prayer faith.

- B. Suffering in this world is part of our glory for the Lord. **Hebrews 2:10**
"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."
2. Our faith grows when we trust the Lord and are content in life with what the Lord has given us. The Lord's blessings are not normally found in human prosperity but spiritual prosperity. Always remember these two scriptures,
- a. **Romans 8:28** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* How do we know this, because of **verses 26 & 27** *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*
- b. **Hebrews 13:5** *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* And in this our faith and prayer life will be strong in the Lord. **Hebrews 13:6** *"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*
3. Keep this scripture in your heart, **Galatians 6:7 - 9** *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*