



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

I Believe . . .

Do You Really Believe?

And just what is it you believe? This may be the last *Message* written, so let us be honest with ourselves. I, personally, am like the one in Mark's Gospel: "I believe, help thou mine unbelief."

Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things *[are]* possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief (Mk 9.23, 24).

My concern is that we are not approaching the throne of grace with the above prayer in our unbelief. Oh, how I pray for more grace, more faith, more strength, more of whatever it is that I need in my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have too long been taught that the Bible was for those who lived during that time. It is a guide, but the Lord understands you taking side roads, playing in the mud holes, dabbling in the religions of this world. Yes, I did not write "other religions," as Christianity is not a religion. It is a way of life in Jesus Christ. He is the lover of our souls.

Religion in the Webster's 1828 Dictionary makes it clear that it is "any system of faith and worship." Christianity is not a system.

That is where most "churches" are today, but not The Church, Christ's Holy Church, those who know the Holy Bible and live, endeavor to live, a life of holiness unto the Lord, those who know the command to daily walk with the Lord.

And he said to *[them]* all, If any *[man]* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (Luk 9:23)

Oh, how weak our faith is, our confidence in the Lord. Oh, the elitism, the superiority of those who believe they stand above the Word and explain scripture to fit themselves believing that makes them look strong, knowledgeable, in control . . . William Barclay in one of the volumes of his Bible Commentaries wrote that we used to go to church when we were sick and in need of healing, but in today's world we go to the physician. Then there are those who say, as was said to me, "If you had faith your husband would not have died." I also heard said, "I prayed for my husband to be healed, because I have faith. He died, but that was because it was his time to die."

Let us walk on in the Lord desiring that we shall be faithful to the Word of the Lord, the Lord Jesus, as we go forth praying for souls who know not the Lord.

Jam 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *[it]* upon your lusts.

Let us come to the throne of God seeking to know what the Lord wants of us, to seek His will for our lives, not to be drawn to that which is of the world. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

Yes, we need to wait in the presence praying one for another with a heart lifted to the Lord. But let us seek the Lord's will in our lives and what we pray for - so that we do not ask amiss, but trust Him with our lives, believing on Him.

Let us walk with the Lord daily that we might learn of Him- and not fail to respond to Him when He calls, but respond to Him with confidence in Him and -

Go Forth in Great Confidence

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Then there are those whom I have heard said to others, if you had faith you could be healed. Where are those who read the Bible, not eisigete, extract scriptures to make them feel as though they are above others and know the whole of the Bible? The Bible makes it clear that the healing of the man with palsy was healed because of the faith of those who took him to Jesus (Mk 2.3-5).

And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken *[it]* up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

I mentioned the body of Christ who have great faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and certainly are living for the Lord. When we see the Persecuted Church, the Underground Church, the many that suffer at the hands of the enemy, of Satan and his followers, we are aware that the Lord is not a genie who does what we want when we try to indicate we have all faith. The person basically asked what does the Persecuted Church have to do with faith. Then said, you always bring *that* up. They went on to say they were talking about faith and healing and all going well for those who do it right. I am writing of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Word of the Lord is clear.

Blessed *[are]* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 5:10)

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *[is]* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Mat 5:12)

Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (2Co 4:9)

Another Word is clear, and teaches faith is not about snapping your fingers for a genie to come out and do what you want done.

Mat 17:14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *[certain]* man, kneeling down to him, and saying,

Mat 17:15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

Mat 17:16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

Mat 17:17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

Mat 17:18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Mat 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

Mat 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.

Mat 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

I have read of those pastors of earlier centuries who spent as much as eight hours every morning in prayer. That is tarrying before the Lord in prayer, offering unto the Lord the burden upon your heart, seeking His will. It is a heart that is burdened

for the lost and the dying. It is a heart that waits upon the Lord, that believes on the Lord.

Many times we do not know, do not understand, what lies behind what is going on in the lives of the saints. We use words without understanding. Satan is alive and sick as ever. He is strong, determined, to pull asunder the body of Christ. Verse 21 makes it clear, "this kind," the enemy, the devil, is at work, an ongoing work.

We find in Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible the following comment on verse 21.

Goeth not out but by prayer and fasting - That is, in order to work miracles of this kind to cast out devils in cases so obstinate and dreadful as this, faith of the highest kind is necessary. That faith is produced and kept vigorous only by much prayer, and by such abstinence from food as fits the mind for the highest exercises of religion, and leaves it free to hold communion with God.

Oh, that we would wait upon the Lord, seek the Lord, as did the Psalmist who was committed to the Lord, willing to trust the Lord - and commit all to the Lord, to be silent before the Lord – releasing any anxiousness he might have. He was willing to rest in the Lord.

The Lord tells us in Psalm 46: ". . . be still and Know that I am God."

There are times we must wait before the Lord, pour out our soul unto Him and wait upon Him, wait in His presence to, yes, pour out our heart unto Him. However, we must wait in His presence, seeking His will only.

Psa 62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation *[is]* from him.

Many have walked away from the Lord, and many more will because their trust in the Lord, their faith has not taken root; they do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. They are like children who have a "want list," but do not seek the Lord, and His will for their lives (Mt 13.21; Mk 4.17). How many say they have faith, say they know the Lord, but are not walking with the Lord!

There is a hymn that I recall from a much earlier time in my life, a time when hymns were sung – not made up choruses by the world: "Have Faith in God,"

Have faith in God when your prayers are unanswered,
Your earnest plea He will never forget;
Wait on the Lord, trust His Word and be patient;
Have faith in God, He'll answer yet.

Chorus:

Have faith in god, He's on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watcheth o'er His own;
He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

B. B. McKinney

I do not have answers for there is much I do not know and cannot understand; however, we must walk on with the Lord trusting Him with our lives, believing on Him – if we are endeavoring to live a godly life - according to His Holy Word.

The Lord is faithful, and He calls us to a life of holiness in Him. Let us be careful that we are not writing / teaching that which is on the level of our understanding.