

What is faith and how does God bring it to us?

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When it comes to faith, we have traditionally believed that faith is this great thing that we need to, basically, do in order for God to do something for us. Faith was basically the one thing that was left over after the law was now fulfilled and Jesus did everything for us, we still had this one thing that we had to do in order for God to do something for us and that is called faith. When it comes to faith, when we look at faith in that perspective, we find that a person that comes out of a grace circle want to kind of think of faith as a work. We need to work up faith or we need to please God with our faith. God is not pleased if we don't have faith. God is pleased by faith so we must now have enough faith to please God.

Now, if we hear that kind of a logic, the subconscious mind of a human being will not want to have a lot to do with a being that demands that faith. Let me put it this way: Imagine I come and I say to you that I've got a neighbor and this neighbor is such a wonderful guy that he tells his children that he will only be good to them if the children believe in him. What would you think of the neighbor? I mean, we as parents, if your child believes in you or don't believe in you, you are yourself. Isn't it? You will want to persuade him of your love. You'll want to persuade him of your goodness. And the message of faith has always been this thing where God demands the faith and if He doesn't have it from you then He will send you to hell or He will not love you and He will not be good to you.

Now, as you listen to this and people may be watching via the web, you might think, "Oh, you know Bertie has now fallen into this universalism!" I am not a universalist. I don't believe in universalism at all. I just believe that we need to put faith in the perspective of the Trinity, in the perspective of relationship, and then define why we need faith. And because without faith it is impossible to be saved but we need to know why we need faith and we cannot approach faith from the perspective of a God demanding it unless He sees you giving Him the faith, He will not do anything for you because that is outside of what I call relationship logic. We cannot define faith the way we have seen faith traditionally in the Church, inside relationship.

Like I said, if you tell your wife, "Listen. Unless you believe in me, I'm not giving you money for food this week. I mean, there is something wrong with that! Isn't it? Now, I want you to think with me and as I believe the Holy Spirit is going to use examples to stretch your understanding and challenge the traditional way of looking at faith, don't just be scared and think of 20 verses to try and protect yourself. Know this: I believe that you need to have faith to be saved. It's impossible to be saved without faith. I'm not trying to teach universalism. I want to explain to you how easy it is to have faith and how great the faith is that you can have and how easy it is to have great faith.

That's what I want to teach you, but in order for that to happen, I want to just want to challenge a traditional way of looking at faith so that your brain can tell you, "Listen, maybe I should open up to something else because what I've traditionally believed might just have been wrong, so that I can get what is true and what is sustainable. You know, we cannot have this mindset of faith points in heaven and when you get ten points then God decides to do something for you.

Imagine I've got a neighbor that would take his children, put them in a difficult situation to see if they would have faith in him. And should they have faith in him he would save them from the difficult situation and appear as a savior. And should they not have faith in him, he would leave them in the situation that they are in. Would you allow that neighbor to babysit your children? The reason I use that example is because that is what my mind believed through the traditional thing of faith. You know, God would put you in a desert, He would put you in a difficult time because He wants to test your faith. That was why what I also believed what the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was. If they would be obedient to God, if they would believe God, and God would only then do something for them unless they first believed in Him.

Let me put it this way: Faith is what your heart needs. Faith is what your heart needs in order to make use of God and what He has given you. Unless you can believe in Him, it's not that He will not do something for you. It is that your heart will not be able to receive what He has given to you unless you can believe in Him. A simple example: If you had an airport and somebody comes to you and tells you, "Will you just take this bag for me through security?" Are you going to take the bag? Why not? But if it is your wife who comes and she says to you loves you, that loves you, that cares for you and she comes and she says to you, "Will you just give this gift to somebody on the other side?" You will not even worry what's in the bag. You will just take it. Why? Because your heart believes in her. If your heart doesn't believe in the person that wants to give you a gift, wants to give you something, if your heart doesn't believe in that person, you will not be able to take it. So, faith is needed for **you**. And because you need faith, that is why God is pleased with faith because if you can have faith, then what God has already given in Christ, you can be able to use that and that pleases Him.

It's not that He sits in heaven and He has this rule, and He has this law, that says, "You know, I fulfilled all the laws and I fulfilled all the prophets and there are only two things that I haven't fulfilled --- and that's tithing and faith. So, that's it. So, unless you have faith, until I feel you've got enough, I cannot do anything for you." That belief about God, if that is the concept where-in we define faith, you find that your heart cannot trust God, your heart cannot believe in God, and the effect of that is death. The effect of that is the fruit of the flesh. The effect of that is everything that you hate and don't want manifesting in your life because you cannot have peace in the depth of your heart.

Imagine I come to you and I say to you, "I have a neighbor who is so just, he's such a holy man. He is so full of life. He's so full of holiness and he is so full of love and kindness and he stands so for what is right that if any of his children sin, his justice can only be satisfied by him killing the child if the child sins."

And then I go on and I say, "But to accommodate his goodness, what he has done is, he felt very sorry for the son that sinned and then he said, "Okay, because I am good, I will go and have one of my other children killed so that I can have a platform from where I can forgive the guilty one." Imagine I have a neighbor like that and he also babysits kids. Would you have him babysit your children? I'm challenging what we believe. I do believe without the blood of Jesus there cannot be redemption or forgiveness. I do believe that God had to be incarnate in a human being. I do believe that Jesus had to die upon the cross. I do believe that there had to be a death, there had to be a resurrection and we have to have faith in what all of that means in order to have salvation. I believe all of that but what the subconscious might hear when he hears about a man that is so good but that justice cannot be satisfied unless he has beaten you or done something like that, your heart will say, "Well, I don't want to be beaten. I don't want to go to hell, so let me, rather, believe in this person you know and the faith you would have would actually be an action of fear and you've never tasted what it believes to actually believe in God.

You know, when we believe in someone, we confused belief with believing for stuff instead of believing in someone. Say that a person is a little bit crazy. I can believe that he's crazy but I cannot believe in him. I hope you hear the difference. I can believe that Jesus has died but if you tell me that the Father had to kill Him so that He could have a reason to forgive me, then I can maybe even believe that that has happened. But I will not be able to believe in Him that He can actually save me and be good to me. I can believe that that can be possible but my heart will not trust Him. It would be impossible! You must say, "Bertie, what about all the verses and all those kinds of things?" Unfortunately, I cannot go through all the verses explaining all those things. Tomorrow night I will talk more about praising God in the light of His justice and just looking at that where we're going to look at the cross and what happened there. I just wanted to bring a picture to you that it is very difficult for us to actually have faith in our heart and believe in God in the presence of things that are said about God, that does not portray equity of character, does not portray a sound principle of love.

It's not sound to say that you have to punish someone in order to forgive someone else. It's not sound. There's something wrong with it. You might say, "But why did Jesus die? Why was the sacrifice there? Tomorrow I am going to explain all of that but I tell you that It was needed. There is no salvation without it but we need to approach that from a different angle so that the heart can actually believe in the Father, that your heart can trust Him, that we can see that in the light of a good God. Amen

I will tell you when, as I start to realize what true faith is and start to experience what true faith is, it's so wonderful to stand at a place where it doesn't matter what happened, if where my heart is at rest in the integrity of God Where when you see there is not enough money or when you see the sickness or when you see this disease and you open and you need to make use of belief, or faith, you find that the box that says belief in your heart is full of belief.

But what I found is that in the traditional way when hard times come, our mind was full of scriptures and our heart was empty of belief. We couldn't believe. We had to walk up and down, quote verses, pray in tongues, do 20 things you know to try and work up enough persuasion to persuade our own hearts that God has seen enough equity of character from our side that would convince Him to do something for us. And that destroys the Church! Sometimes, you know, I say to the Lord, "Lord, You know, why don't You give me one of those simple messages so that people can also like me." You know, whenever you challenge people's beliefs, you know, it is always a touchy issue when you challenge a belief. So maybe your belief is challenged tonight. Maybe you are watching via the live stream and your belief is challenged. But, let it be challenged. If it is solid then it will stand the challenge.

Listen to this version how important belief is. ***If you confess the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.***

So, it says here that if we can confess the Lord Jesus, or Jesus as our Lord, and we can believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.... Now, there is a lot around that that I don't want to get into now but He says, "Then shall we be saved." So, salvation is connected to this belief. So, salvation is connected to this heart that can trust God, that can believe in Him.

For everyone whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed.

Now, listen to the wording here: How will you call upon somebody unless you have first believed in him. Why do you call 9-1-1 in a case of emergency? Because you believe they're going to help you. And unless they were trustworthy and have proven themselves as trustworthy, you will never call on them. So, you first need to believe in order to call upon His name.

Faith is to be persuaded but the root word for faith is the word which means to persuade someone. Now, I want to explain to you what needs to happen in order to persuade someone. It means to persuade. In other words, to induce one by words to believe; to make a friend of; to win one's favor; to gain one's good will or to seek to win one. So, what he says here is, "When I want someone to believe in me, when I want him to have faith in me, then I'll do the following: I will speak words that can cause his heart to believe in me, to be persuaded of a certain argument. If you are a good salesman, what you want to do is you want the person to believe you. You want him to be persuaded. You want him to believe you and because you want him to believe you, you'll get dressed in a way that can tell his heart that this guy might be telling the truth.

If you are a car salesman, you are not going to stand there with old clothes and dread locks and just smoke marijuana and then try and sell the car. The guy's not going to believe you if you say that this is the best car there is because what he sees tells his heart that I cannot believe in him. So, when you want someone to have faith in you, you must first be believable.

And when the Bible says, "**Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word**" what it means is there is a word that is believable. It's possible to believe that word. That word comes packaged in a way that when the human heart, when he hears what is said, will want to trust in that being that's behind that word.

So here it says that if God wants us to have faith, what will God have to do? He will have to induce belief by certain words. He will have to come and make a friend. He will have to win your favor. He will have to win your good will and He will have to win you over to Him. That is what it means if I want somebody to believe in me. So, a person that has faith is someone who is persuaded because of the words, the believable words, that he has heard. It is someone who sees God as his friend. It is someone with whom God has won his favor. When you have faith in God is when God has gained your good will and when He's won you over by being good to you. That word means to actually believe in God. And when we believe in God, we can actually then believe His promise. We've tried to believe the promise without believing in Him.

When you are in ministry, you find many people promising you stuff. You know, if somebody just comes and he promises you and you can look at him and think, "I don't know if you will keep your promise", but then he does. But it is difficult even if he would be able to keep his promise, it was difficult for your heart to believe in him for you don't know him. And what we have made faith out to be is to believe in someone you cannot trust. To have as little information as possible, to have a heart that cannot be persuaded and then have blind faith and just say, "I just believe." No. That's not what God intended. That is not how any relationship works. And when we look at God, we find in the Hebrew it says, "In the beginning God..." That word, God, in the Hebrew is Elohim which means the divine ones. It's a plural for the word, God. It's the more than one God. Now you might say, "That's heresy!" No! It's not heresy. It is the building blocks of Christianity.

Before time there was a God. The Hebrew for the word, God, means "the more than one" or God in plural form. The best way to say it is this way: Family. Family speaks of more than one yet the family can be one. There can only be one family but, the moment you say, "This one family", family means there is more than one. Then the family can either be broken up or the family can be one in unison and in unity. That is what the Bible talks about when it says, "Israel, know this: The Lord, your God, is one. What he was trying to say is, "This is a relationship orientated thing. This is a thing where the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are transparent towards one another. Their hearts are open. It's a safe place for each one of them. They believe and trust in each other They are born into each other. They are one and we are made to function like that. We are not made to function in something that we cannot understand.

God came and He declared who He was. He came to the earth. He dwelt among us. He poured out His Holy Spirit. He works in our hearts. He gave us the Bible. He speaks to us in dreams, visions and passions in our heart and He comes and He portrays His love for us. He becomes a human being. He obeys on our behalf. He dies on our behalf. He's resurrected on our behalf. In human form, He is seated at the right hand of the Father portraying who the Father is in what He does.

And when we see that, we will find our heart can start to believe in Him. When our heart can believe in Him, we can say, "Okay, Father, I can believe in You. What is the promise You've made me?" Then you will see the promise that He's made you is that He will make you immortal, undying, in the return of Jesus Christ, free from your contribution. When you can believe that, when you can say, "I believe that, free from my works, He will give me eternal life so that I will eternally be like the resurrected Jesus", that is called the righteousness of faith, meaning in the presence of a God that gave His Son, in the presence of a God Who took away your sin, in the presence of a God that removed all distance, in the presence of a God that does not impute your trespasses to you, in the presence of a God that includes you in everything He does and ends all disqualification and prepares a place for you in heaven, the righteous thing to do in that is to have a heart persuaded that He is good and that He can fulfill His promise. That is the righteousness of faith.

What would be unrighteous is to say, "I don't believe You", because that is not as you ought to be in the presence of such a wonderful deed that was that took place. That will be unrighteous in the perspective of that relationship.

That is why we have three kinds of righteousness: The righteousness of the law, the righteousness of faith and the righteousness of God. (You can go and get that on my website dynamicministries.com. I've got it there. I've recently preached on that explaining those three different kinds of righteousness.)

So, what I want to say is that it is so important for us to have an atmosphere where we can see God inducing a persuasion. He induces a persuasion by words. He induces belief by words that will strum the strings of your heart that you can trust and believe in Him.

Now, a doctrine that says that God wants to punish someone who has sinned, a doctrine that says that God is so angry that the only way His righteousness can actually be revealed is by beating somebody to death. That does not strum the strings of my heart. That does not produce belief in my heart. My mind can kind of judicially categorize it but my heart cannot believe in that person because a person that does that to his own children is not trustworthy.

Now, you know we try to make God a being that is so much different than us that we would believe anything somebody says about Him because He's the unseen God. He's the unseen God that came and expressed... in the Greek it says that He came to explain the Father, or exegesis the Father, meaning He came and revealed the Father to us in Him being a friend of sinners, in Him killing nobody, in Him actually raising the dead, in Him willing to take the death that sin could bring to man, on Him, and prepare a body that could actually take that death of sin, not the anger of the Father, and so save you from death. Now when you hear that, we find that belief starts to rise in our heart. We can actually trust such a person.

You know, He came and gave His life and did everything possible for a person that did not believe in Him, that did not trust Him, that did not do anything good. He gave His Son for sinners and when we see that and when we see the love that He has for people, our hearts start to say, "Well, if He's done that, I'm sure the promise that He made that He can actually give me eternal life free from my works can be so and then I can start to rest from my works to try and produce my own life and trust Him and then He can actually do something. Are you hearing what I'm saying?"

Now listen to this: The Bible says in **Romans 10**:

13 Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how will they call on Him in whom they have not believed. (You will not call 911 if you don't believe that they will do something for you.)

14 And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How will a person believe if you have not heard of who the Father is?

Now, a lot has been said in the name of Jesus but the question is, "How much?" Now, I do believe enough and please hear me. I thank the Lord for the Word of Faith Move that there was, the Charismatic Move that there was, even Dutch Reformed... everything. We, today, stand on the shoulders of the truth that also came through in those packages. So, it doesn't help with today stand and spit on the people and dishonor those that through whom we actually a lot of us, for the first time, received the Lord, that has helped us in our marriage, that has prayed for us, that has helped us when we are in the hospitals. It doesn't help that we step on them and say, "We have another revelation. We are better than you." That is not life. So, what I embrace everybody that has taught me things in my life and I thank God for them in my life. You know, even the pastor that wanted me to work like a slave for him, Lord thank You for that man. You know I'm not going to continue with that but I'm not going to live in bitterness towards that. In those circles certain elements of truth was taught but this is what I want to say, "How will you believe if you have not heard of who He is and who He is is portrayed in Christ. Amen. We need to hear how good He is.

Let me put it in other words: How will we believe unless we hear words where-in He calls us, "friend"? How will we believe in Him unless we hear of a Being that wants to win our favor? How will we believe in One that is not inside the category of gaining your good will? Good will means to be of high reputation. So, when you look at God, unless your heart can say that He is of the highest reputation not because the Bible says so but, because you are so persuaded that He is on account of what He has done. Then, when you believe, you will call on His name.

What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Call on the name of the Lord, according to Thayer means the following: to put a name upon; to surname; to permit oneself to be surnamed. (Surname means family name.) So, when you call on the name of the Lord is when you say, "I have found enough reason to say, "I see myself as part of this family."

It's like somebody on the street that received an inheritance. He is just a beggar on the street and he received an inheritance. His aunt passed away and gave him a wonderful inheritance. Now he lives on the street. He believes that his name is John Smith. But as long as what he believes he's Smith he will never be able to go and take the inheritance if the inheritance is in Woods. In order for him to claim the inheritance is the inheritance must be his. Then somebody has to go to him and give him all the proof of how he fits into that family and prove that he is not Smith but Woods. If he can believe it then he will make use of the inheritance that has been given to him and that would please the one that left him the inheritance. Are you hearing that?

So, when he comes and goes to the lawyers and he calls upon the name, it means, "I'm willing to take this name upon me for this aunt was my aunt." And that's the thing with the Lord. When you can declare Jesus as your Lord, meaning that when He came to the earth, was the Lord of mankind and He died away the sin of the world. He ended all disqualification. He's seated at the right hand of the Father as the representative of mankind or the High Priest of mankind. He is your seat in eternity and when you can say, "He came for me. He is my Lord. I'm part of His jurisdiction. I'm part of His family. When you can say that and then call upon the truth, you shall be slaved from the slavery of sin, death, bitterness, hatred and all kinds of fruit of the flesh because His inheritance that He has given you is what Jesus received when He was raised from the dead. Jesus inherited immortality, undying dying human flesh, on account of the Spirit of God that indwells Him. And that is what our inheritance is.

And when we see a God that is portrayed as a good God, a loving God, a God that cares for us, and our heart might come to a place where we actually believe that even if I'm dead for 12,000 years, He can raise my body and give me mortality and so will I be with the Lord forever. And if you can believe that, what is the next paycheck then? That's why Jesus said, "First seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness." What does righteousness mean? It means His equitable deed, His goodness. Seek how His kingdom works. His kingdom works this way. This is how His kingdom works: "I, Lord God, have life and I will give you My life." That is the way! And His righteousness is how righteous He acted in the presence of sinners. How was He righteous towards sinners? He loved them. He healed their sickness. He carried their diseases. He set them free. He died their death. He prepared a body for them and gave them a seat in the Trinity. That is the righteousness of God. Seek how righteous God is towards the sinning world and then all these things shall, anyway, be added to you! Now, if you don't enjoy this message, my goodness! I'm enjoying it!

Listen to this: ***And how will they believe if they have not heard? And how will they hear unless they are sent.***

I remember years ago I would understand that verse as, "Give me money that I can go and preach the Gospel. You know how will people hear unless I'm sent. Send me and I'll go." Now, there is truth in that but I don't believe that is what that verse says. That word, sent, there is connected toward a military concept that the Jews understood when Israel would go to war.

And this is how it worked: When there was a battle, obviously like in any country, the army goes and they fight the war. In these days we have internet or we have telephones or whatever and then we get a messenger. The messenger will then send a message on what's going on in the world. Are we winning the war or are we losing the war? Now in those days it was before the days of the internet. They didn't even have electricity. Trust me. David didn't. I don't want to live like King David lived so dark old castle. No way! They had a runner and this is the message that the runner would come with if they won the war. Then when he comes over the mountains and by the way he would be running, you could see that it's good news: "We won!" And how would these people that are living in slavery to a certain king, live in freedom and have liberty to be themselves unless their king, or their lord, has won the battle for them? They will never be able to live free.

Now, if the king has won the battle, how will they live free unless somebody tells them that their king that represents them has won their battle? And how will that man come and tell this guy unless the king has sent him? And I want to continue... how can the king send him if it's not true? That's what he's using here. He's trying to explain salvation. This comes from Romans 6,7,8, 9, 10. He tries to explain how to be saved from sin, how to be saved from what kept us in bondage, how to be saved from hurt and bitterness and to be saved from, "What I don't want to do that I do and what I want to do, that I don't do...." How to be saved from death." This is the way: You needed a king that would be your king and Jesus is the King of mankind. That King went into battle and what He did was He took captivity and He led it captive. He took slavery and locked it up and then He sent a message on account of this truth and He says, "This is the truth: You are now free. The land belongs to you. Your king, your leader is Lord. He reigns!" Amen! And when we can believe that, what will happen? We will not live like slaves anymore!

It's like in South Africa when the apartheid was ended. They went with the good news of "Nelson Mandela is President!" And when the people heard that the one they voted for, or the one that stood for them is now President, and they are free, guess what? Then the people who believed it went to shopping malls they never could go to before! They could stand in a certain lineup at a certain place in the bank where they couldn't do it before. Why? Because they believed that their king is lord. That's the Gospel! The death of Jesus includes everybody... not just the believer. It includes everybody. He died for all people. If I am persecuted for saying, "Jesus died for all people!", let it be because if I cannot say that, I have no Gospel and man, I can just leave everything and go and cycle. Why would I travel to the other side of the world if I don't have a message, man.

So, if it includes everybody and if Jesus did what He did for everybody and if He won the battle for everybody, what does that mean to everybody? Everybody is free! But the things that have been assigned to Jesus, to God, things like a god of justice and punishment and anger and all those kinds of things, makes that when we come with a message of, "You are all free!", that they cannot believe it because, "No, no! God is a just God! You know, what if I do this or what if I do that?" And then the lie you heard about God makes it you cannot believe the truth and how shall you then call upon the name? How shall your heart find enough evidence to say, "I'm willing to take the family name of God on me and say that I call upon that inheritance of immortality." You will not. Be able to do it, my friend.

Your heart will not be able to do it and we need freedom. We need freedom. We need the life of God, you know, to come to our hearts, Church. We need a believable God... a God that you can go to without fear and put your child in His hands.

You know when it comes to our children, we are so scared to actually give them over to God because our heart cannot trust Him because we've heard so many things about Him.

What Jesus Christ came to do for us is He came to take away the voice of accusation and the voice of guilt and the system of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Knowledge means intimacy or to be one with. Now listen carefully to what it said in Genesis 2:17. "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." So, the fruit of this tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or the intimacy with good and evil, will bring forth. Don't eat of it!" Now, how do you eat of that tree? It is very simple: You believe what it says. How do you drink the blood of Jesus? You believe in what the blood of Jesus says. How do you eat the flesh of Jesus? You believe in what the body of Jesus stands for. How do you eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? You believe in what that tree says and that's how you eat it. I'm not very sure. Let me explain how eat works. When you take food and you eat it, what does it do? It goes into your digestive system and becomes energy and it gives you life.

So, when we eat the flesh of Jesus, when we believe it, it enters our spiritual digestive system and then gives us life and we are then born from that belief. Our life comes from that belief. So, if we eat of that tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it means I have a belief that makes me one with, intimate with, the knowledge of good and evil. Now, what would good be? The Bible says clearly in Matthew 21 says there's only one that's good and that's God. What is evil? The Greek word for evil in the Septuagint in Genesis 2:17 there is the word full of labor or hard work... what it is to behold God, to see how the Trinity function and then to say, "I'll do what I see what they do and then I will have life to believe that." That will kill you! You cannot love yourself. You cannot love your neighbor and so live. No... God loves you, therefore you live. And because He then lives in you on account of His life, then you will also love. Can you understand what I'm saying!

So, what has happened is we've had this concept of under the law we had to do so much. Under grace, what God is now going to do is He is going to empower you to do them more which is actually God's standard. That's a certain concept that I hear in Grace circles. I don't know if you've heard that, heard it in finances especially. Under the law, you gave 10 per cent and under grace you'll give more. Under the law, you forgave three times. Under grace you forgive ten times and if you don't forgive the ten times then all these consequences. That is just law message. That is not the Gospel. Shall I live an extremely holy life under grace? Of course, I'll be set free from sin. I will have the power of the Holy Spirit. I will have words of wisdom, words of knowledge. I'll be able to heal the sick. There are so many things that come forth in my heart effortlessly without me trying to work it out. I'll have a heart at rest in the integrity of God. That's what the word, believe, means. To have your mind at rest at the integrity, veracity, friendship and sound principle of another being or another man. That's when you trust God.

So, when you start to trust Him, you start to find and You move in His Spirit, you find His Spirit brings forth the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit as easy as what it was to sin under the law, as easy as what it was to be critical and judgmental and angry under the law and always think you're better than others, always judging everybody, or always thinking you are worse than everybody. As what it was, that's how easy it will be under Grace. But we cannot make the law that says, "We've done so much under the law and now we will do so much under Grace." That will kill your heart. This is what happened with the disciples of Jesus. Jesus comes and He says to them:

Luke 17:

3 Take heed to yourselves: If your brother trespass against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

4 And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you, saying, I repent; you shall forgive him.

5 And the apostles said to the Lord, give us more faith.

Now, what we've understood under Grace, not all but some of us, I was in that as well, is that under Grace, God gives us the more power, more faith, to do the higher requirement. That is what I understood and this is exactly what the disciples here said. The disciples said Jesus and disciples, "Take heed of yourself. The law says, "Forgive three times but I tell you forgive seven times." But what Jesus said there was also law and I'll explain to you why He said that's it's law.

Then the disciples said, "Okay, Lord, increase our faith." And that's the kind of faith we've had in Church for a long time. It's a faith for something to happen in my life: The faith for me to forgive seven times, the faith for me to say, "Yes, I can!" That faith. But that is not the faith the Bible talks about. The faith the Bible talks about is a persuasion of what Christ has done that results into a heart that can have a mind at rest in the integrity of God which then can bring the hope in your heart that says, "He shall even raise me from the dead. He shall, by His doing, find His fruit in my life by His Spirit. It's not, "I can now do more." I hope you hear what I'm saying.

Let me go around this once more because I feel that some might not understand what I'm saying. The law said, "Forgive three times." Jesus said, "Take heed of yourselves. Check yourself. I say to you to forgive seven times." They said, "Lord, if you can increase our ability to believe that we can do it, we'll do it. We must just believe we can then we'll do it." What was the first thing that came to their heart when Jesus said to them, "Forgive seven times"? Guilt... disqualification! And then, in their zeal for God they said, "Jesus, if You can help us and persuade us that we can do this, we'll do it!" Then Jesus said the following: "**If you have faith even as small as a mustard seed, he will say to this tree, 'Be planted in the sea.'**" In the Greek it is a kind of a fig tree. **Fig tree talks about self-righteousness where you clothe yourself.**

So, what they said is, "Jesus said, "Hey, Disciples! You think you are clothed with just three leaves of forgiveness but your nakedness is exposed. Then you need more leaves." He said, "Well, Lord, if you can give me the strength to get more leaves, I'll clothe myself."

Jesus said, "Guys, that's not what I'm trying to say. What I'm trying to say is, "If you've got the right persuasion, you'll get rid of this whole fig tree thing!"

So, what does faith do? True faith uproots the whole system of, "Take the good and work the good and by looking at how God lives, if I live like the Trinity, then if I just do that, if I jot God down and I can describe His love perfectly and just do that, I will have life." What does true faith do? True faith says, "No! I have that life!" True faith says, "I cannot live that way. That makes me stand separate from God, out of His relationship. When the Bible says, "And God created." The word, created, is bar alef, son of God. The way God creates is by giving birth from the intimacy in the Trinity. So, the Trinity is intimate then it brings forth a man. The Trinity is intimate then it brings forth a planet. The Trinity is intimate and it manifests light. That's how God brings forth and that is the only way wherein you will have life. You will see yourself included into that Trinity through Christ and in that intimacy, you'll find God, bar alef, Son of aleph. Simon bar Jonah. Bar means son of. So, the good fruit in your life will be a son of God or born from God. He says that we have been created unto good works. How are we created unto that? We are created unto that by Trinity relationship. And then when we are in there, we find this trust relationship, this belief, and from there God creates in our lives.

So, here, we find that true faith uproots everything that disqualifies, every self-righteous system. It takes the fig tree and uproots it. He then goes on and he says, if you read on from verse seven, on, he says, "If a servant works for the master and he completed the job at noon, will the master now say to the servant, "Sit down. Let me serve you." Jesus says, "I think not." Will he not tell the servant, "Make me a meal and serve me and when you have already finished serving me then you can serve yourself. "And then at the end of the day, you must say, "I'm an unprofitable servant for I've only done what was my duty."

So, what Jesus was trying to say to them is that even if you can forgive three times and you get that right at noon, do you think now, based on that works, the master is now going to serve you? No! He's going to give you more work. He's going to tell you to forgive seven times! But what I want you to see, and this is what Jesus said, "I want you to see that this is not a slavery thing! Take this whole slavery mentality and cast in the sea. You've got the right belief because if you can believe why Jesus came and what He is all about, He will say to that system, "Be cast into the ocean!" Why the ocean? For He buried my sins in the depths of the sea and carried my guilt far away. As far as the east is from the west, He has removed my transgressions from me. Here they see seven times. "Oh, okay. Lord, help me to forgive seven times then I will know I'll be a child of God. Then I know that the Master will make me sit at His table."

No, no, no! He has prepared a place for you at the table! So, true faith tells that tree, "Be uprooted! So, Church, you have a God that loves you. You've got a God that induces belief in your heart through equitable words, through words that will evoke your beauty. You've got a God that came and wants to win your friendship by speaking a language to your heart that can bring forth true persuasion. You've got a God that has come in Jesus Christ and won your favor.

Hear a message that can gain wherein Her can gain goodwill with you and see how He seeks to win you over by a captivating love for you. Glory to God!

Let us pray together:

Father, I want to thank You for Your great love! I want to thank You for Your mercy and Your grace. Thank You, Father! You know what happens when we are in the Trinity and when we are co-seated with the Father and if I am one with Him and He is one with you, then we start to feel and know one another. That is how the gift, the word of wisdom, works in the Word of knowledge. I can feel what God feels about you and I can feel what you feel in your heart and you can feel what I feel and we become one because we are one in Him.

I feel in my heart that there is a lady here. You are so discouraged and there was a certain thing in your life that you are just discouraged. You feel, "Man, I'm giving up on it. It's not going to work for me. I'm in pain." And now what is happening is your heart's becoming calloused towards that area. And the Lord says, "I love you! I feel your pain." What makes Jesus the greatest Lover in human history is that He can feel your pain. He says, "I feel with you. I cry with you. I'm there with you and in the deepest darkness of your pain, I embrace you and I love you. Never think that I'm against you! I'm for you and I will see that this beauty comes forth that you desire and that desire you have will come forth. You've always believed in Me. Continue to believe in Me. Let this not bring a separation in your mind between us. I love you!" That's the word of the Lord for you! Thank You, Father! Thank You, Lord Jesus!

I just believe that the Holy Spirit is just moving and just healing people, In the presence of a word of such love and such acceptance, we just find the healing power of God just touching people's lives, just confirming this Word with signs, wonders and miracles.