



2021

SEMINAR THREE

FIVE ELEMENTS OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS - PART II

BY

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"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." - Romans 8:29.

Like Jesus, our goal is to become powerful, be Christlike and please God.

3. PLEASING GOD

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him - **II Corinthians 5:9 (ESV)**

"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." - Galatians 1:10.

THE TESTIMONY ABOUT ENOCH

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." - Hebrews 11:5.

THE TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS

"And lo, a voice came from Heaven, saying, "This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased." - Matthew 3:17.

Jesus lived thirty years of sinless purity before He did one work of power. His goal was not to do any great work but it was to please the Father with a holy life.

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again" - John 10:17.

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." - John 8:29.

"Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" - Matthew 11:29 (NET)

"Take my yoke on you and become like me, for I am gentle and without pride, and you will have rest for your souls;" - Matthew 11:29 (BBE).

WHAT IS THE TESTIMONY ABOUT YOU?

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” - I John 3:22.

“But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.” - I Thessalonians 2:4.

We must remain aware of the fact that God sees the condition of our hearts. He tests our hearts. We live to please God. Our ministries should please God and not men.

TWO ASPECTS OF OUR WALK WITH GOD

There are two aspects of our walk and relationship with God. They are:

- Fixed Union
- Vital Union

FIXED UNION

Our union with Christ is fixed. Union does not ebb and flow. It does not waver. It does not increase or decrease but is consistent. And praise be to God for this fixed element! We don't need to lose our assurance as children of God every time we sin. We can look back to our union with Christ and repent, rather than question if we are actually saved or not.

VITAL UNION

This is our dynamic or active union with Christ. It is our communion or fellowship with Him. Our communion with Christ is dynamic. Communion can increase or decrease. If you are walking in habitual sin, your relationship with God to a very large extent will feel dry. It will lack the vitality that true union with God produces. If you are walking in regular obedience, your relationship with God will be full.

If we make it your aim to please the Lord (to find joy in what He delights in) then our communion with Him will be rich. If we seek to please ourselves at the expense of God's pleasure, then our fellowship will be at a low ebb.

THE KEY TO PLEASING GOD

“But give reverent honour in your hearts to the Anointed One and treat Him as the holy Master of your lives.” - I Peter 3:15a (TPT).

Is the Lord sanctified in your heart? Give Him honour as the Lord; acknowledge that Christ is the One who is in complete control of your life; venerate Him.

“Hallowed be your name” - Matthew 6:9. A true and effective prayer is the communication with God which comes from a place where God is hallowed. True Worship is sanctifying God in your heart.

FAITH PLEASES GOD

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” – Hebrews 11:6.

Why does God place such a high premium on our Belief of Him and Faith in Him? It is because it means we take Him seriously. If we don't trust and have confidence in His integrity and character, we can hardly go so far. If we don't respect God's integrity, He can hardly get anything to us and He can't do anything significant through and with us.

God's purpose can only be birthed on earth by people who absolutely trust Him. If you don't take God seriously for what He says, you are making Him look like a liar. Faith comes and grows by revelation knowledge of God and His Word and it is expressed through trust. You can only really trust a God that you know by relationship. Therefore, faith is a function of relationship

WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” – II Cor. 7:1.

THE PROMISE

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” - II Corinthians 6:17-18.

The Saints in the Old Testament did not have the kind of access we have under the New Covenant. They only knew about a God to be feared, but we know about a God who is gracious beyond human capacity to understand graciousness. What we need today is an Old Testament understanding of the Fear of the Lord and a New Testament insight into the Grace of God.

THE GRACE TO PLEASE GOD

If we feel pleasing God is an impossible assignment, then it is because we have only heard half the message.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” - John 1:17.

In the Old Covenant, God gave Israel the Law. In the New Covenant by His Grace, God has given us His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is to the New Covenant what the law was to the Old Covenant. The Holy Spirit will do what He said He would. He will furnish us with the ability to please God. He is the Spirit of Grace.

The Old Covenant was full of demand with little supply. However, in the New Covenant, the supply column is oversubscribed.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” - Titus 2:11-12.

The teaching of God’s Grace is the instruction and the moulding of our character by reproof and admonition. Much more than that, it includes the supply of the ability to do what it instructs.

THE REWARD FOR PLEASING GOD

The first reward for pleasing God is that we’ve pleased Him. Pleasing God is an end. We please Him because we have been commanded to do so.

FAVOUR FROM GOD

The dictionary meaning of favour is “friendly or well-disposed regard, goodwill; the state of being approved or held in regard; excessive kindness, unfair partiality or preferential treatment”.

After the declaration of Jesus’ pleasing the Father as His beloved Son, the heavens opened. That was a Divine endorsement for a life that was well pleasing to God. Speaking in purely human terms, when you please someone, he will become favourably disposed to you. The difference between the relationship between children who please their parents and the ones who do not is quite clear.

Pleasing God is the key to receiving favour. Jesus pleased the Father. No wonder the Word says that He grew in favour before God (Luke 2:52). If favour means preferential treatment, what will God’s preferential treatment and “unfair partiality” look like? Favour is a Divine response to human action. Favour also means an access. When we please God, He grants us the type of access to Himself and His wonders that is not granted to everyone.

THE ETERNAL REWARD

“Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” - II Corinthians 5:9-10.

Part of our labour on earth is to please the Lord. We shall all give an account of ourselves before the judgment seat of Christ. At the end of everything, what we want to hear is: “Well done, good and faithful servant”.

4. BEING FILLED WITH THE POWER OF GOD

John tells us in his first epistle that those who say they abide in Him ought to walk “in the same manner as He walked” - I John 2: 6. Abiding in Jesus leads to walking like Him. God has more for us than just becoming nicer people. He wants to flood our lives with the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Our Father is not seeking to merely civilize us but He wants us to be Christ-like. He desires that our confidence in life would be drawn from His union with us.

THE RESULTANT EFFECT OF GOD’S POWER

Acts 9:32-35 says: *“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.”*

Miracles from God have the capacity to turn our cities back to the Lord. Jesus denounced the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent - Matt. 11:20. In anger, He rebuked Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum - Matt. 11:21, 23. He wept over Jerusalem - Luke 13:34. If He expected cities to repent in the first century, He expects cities today to repent as well.

“For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes...If the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day” - Matt. 11:21,23.

The strategy, therefore, to turn our cities back to God is for the church to reveal Christ's life in power. God gives us authority for one specific purpose: to fulfil His purposes on earth. One main unveiling of the divine purpose is seen in the Great Commission.

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” - Matt. 28:18-19.

Christ gave the Church authority to make disciples.

GREATER WORKS

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” - John 14:12.

What were the works Jesus did during His sojourn on earth? He healed the sick, cast out demons, cleansed the lepers, reformed people, created kingdom concepts, raised the

dead and simply responded to the cries of the people with whom He came in contact. He has commissioned us to do the same things.

“And as you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give” - Luke 10:7-8.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” - Mark 16:17-18.

THE CYCLE OF POWER

- Consistent Hunger

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” - Matthew 5:6.

God does not give His greatest gifts to the uninterested. The uninterested will not experience the greater dimensions of God.

- Receive

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” - Acts 1:8.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” - Acts 10:38.

Jesus said to the disciples "you shall *receive* Power." The Greek word receive is the word *lambano*. It means “to take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it; to take what is one's own, to take to one's self, to make one's own.” We have been given, but we now ought to receive. Make it your own, claim ownership of it. You are a co-heir with Christ; you are the continuation of the ministry of Jesus.

- Recognise

“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” - Acts 3:6.

We have power because of the Spirit of the Father in us. God wants us to grow in strength by recognising that the Holy Ghost is in us. God wants us to believe that His power is resident in us, the same way Peter and John replicated it at the gate called Beautiful (Acts 3). Before they healed the lame man, they made a statement that we ought to be able to make: “**such as I have**”. This phrase exemplifies that they had made this ability their own to deploy.

- **Declare**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised”
- Luke 4:18.

Say it to yourself. Make a conscious effort to keep reminding yourself that God’s power is at work in you.

- **Align**

“Jesus answered and said unto him, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” - John 14:23.

The holiest Man who ever walked the earth was Jesus. And He walked in Great Power. Our destiny and purpose is Conformity to Jesus (Romans 8:29).

- **Deploy**

Step out in Faith. The power of God is not for armchair Christians. We will only see the manifestation of God’s power as we begin to minister to people.

May we please the Lord and walk in the full measure of His Power.