Putting Your Faith Where Your Mouth Is

Proverbs 18:21a/ Proverbs 3:5-9

7/10/22

When we become Christians, we become a new person! We become a person who receives eternal life with Christ in Heaven. We received life and life more abundant. We receive joy, unspeakable and full of Glory. We receive comfort, strength, hope and victory. We receive all these things from God as His children, His Church, and as having a relationship with Him! These things are given are not just blessings but should help us for the difficult times in our lives. As Christians, we should know that these things are ours, if we would only receive them with faith and then walk in that faith and speak that faith!

Now I have spoken on this before in times past, but the I believe the Lord this morning wants to remind us, that He is who He says He is. When He says something, that’s it...It’ final...According to studies that have been conducted of scripture, there is 7,147 promises from God to man!

* *Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?”*

So, with that I want to put you on the spot this morning and ask a personal question.

* How many this morning can honestly say today that you are walking in a real, day to day, relationship with God and are living in faith today?

For some here this morning, you’ve served the Lord for many years and in those years have been through many storms, difficulties, and trials. And I’d be willing to say, that in those times you have seen God move in the most impossible ways through those tough times.

For some here today maybe you’ve seen God move in a much different and slower way than you thought...But the truth is that God is always moving and is with us in our tough times. We know and can believe this because GOD SAID in 2 places Deut. & Hebrews “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. God also confirms this in Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

You see I asked the question earlier to test you, because if you are living for the Lord, He is always with you and He’s not going to fail you...EVER...God doesn’t fail, God doesn’t forsake...He can’t! It’s not in His nature to do so to the ones who are His! Nothing can separate you from His love.

* Romans 8:35;37

*Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death... (37) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*

Now this all sounds amazing and so awesome right? This is encouraging and on this beautiful Sunday morning, in church, with our church family, this just sounds peachy and perfect, and we totally agree with this today...Amen?

Then what in the world happens to us on Monday morning? What happens to us when life smacks us upside the face? What happens to our faith in Gods promises? The way through difficult times is walking in and speaking HIS promises & His Word!

You ever noticed that in good times, comfortable times, and the “going is easy” times, it’s easy to trust the Lord. It’s easy to say I TRUST GOD WITH ALL MY HEART! Many of us do this; we say with our lips, we trust in the Lord with hearts, but do we really? Is that trust built on true solid faith in God no matter the circumstance or is that just what Christians are supposed to say to make us sound Christian? Does Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” really apply to our heart and lives or not?

The way we can know this is to “LISTEN” to our words and observe our actions when “Trials & Tribulations” or difficult times come about. The Bible says in 1 Peter 4:12 “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal (trials) that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

* Just a bit of info for everyone today...Everyone gets slapped in the face occasionally by this broken world. Sometimes it’s our doing, sometimes we have done nothing to bring it on, but truth is EVERYONE goes through trials and tribulations. And the Bible lets us know, don’t think it’s just you and to even expect it.

“Trials and tribulations” are the challenges someone is forced to endure to test their **strength and fortitude**

* When difficult times show up at your front door, kicks it in, and says “Honey I’m Home”, whose strength and fortitude are you relying on? Your strength, your courage, or Gods.
* What words are you speaking during these times? Words of faith/life/victory, or doubt/death/defeat?

I want us to seriously think about this today, because I believe in order for us to become more like Christ and less of ourselves, we need to learn to walk the walk and talk the talk whether life is going smooth, or we feel we’ve been, as Roger puts it, hit upside the head with a 2x4.

* If we say we are trusting the Lord, then we need trust Him with all of our hearts, and we shouldn’t to try to figure out why this or why that is happening to us.
* If we say we trust God, but our words and actions completely walk a different way, then do God a favor and quit saying your trusting Him.

How do you react when an “uncomfortable” thing happens to you? Maybe somebody’s talked trash about you, your car won’t start, the doctor says they found something.

* Is it at this point you feel like your life is so messed up and **“your world”** is ruined?
* Is it at this point all that faith talk goes right out the window?
* Does the mouth of the “faithful” begin to become mouth of the whining, snibling and complaining?

Does this mean we’re not going to get down and bummed out occasionally? Of course, we will, but we need to be careful how we ourselves to talk and act when difficult times come around. Did you know there is power and cursing in what you say?

* *Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue …”*
* ***Matthew 12:37 “For by your words, you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."***
  + ***Acquit – Set you Free***
  + ***Condemn – Keep you in bondage***

How you speak and how you act in difficult times, show if you truly “Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart”.

If you are living for the Lord today, you believed in faith and used your mouth to receive Jesus Christ into your heart...Giving you life!

* *Romans 10:9 “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

So, you were given life when you received Christ. Faith brought you life by speaking.

But what happens to that life, that faith, when we with the same mouth we received Christ with begins complaining or doubting?

* When we start complaining about how we feel slated, how could God let this happen and you start speaking words of negativity is when you’ve allowed the enemy to dwindle your faith and cause your hearts to become weak in trusting God. You’ve given the enemy the upper hand and you are allowing defeat in your life.

Example:

Sunday’s church service was awesome, and you were so encouraged by the worship and the Word. You wake up on Monday and day starts awesome! Great devotional, great prayer time...” *God I submit my will and heart completely to you, and no matter what comes my way, give me the strength and faith to walk in this day with you.... KNOWING YOU ARE WITH ME ALWAYS!*

You get to work, and you find out that they no longer need your services and are let go. It’s at this moment that you must ask yourself, “Am I going to trust God, knowing He already knew this was going to happen, and though I ‘m not happy about it, don’t understand it or agree with it, I believe and trust the promises of God and believe He still has my best interest at heart? Or am I going to throw that out the window and scream, cry and allow worry to make its home instantly! “What I am going to do, how will I pay for my house, my car...I’m done for! God WHERE ARE YOU AND HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?

You see as you complain, doubt, the enemy continues to dig ever so deep and the words of life and promise you were speaking begin to become words of death and defeat. Not speaking life anymore buts curses, which in turn continues to dwindle your faith even more...to the point you begin questioning God ...I did this, I did that, and this is what you allow...Now I’m going to be homeless, carless, and oh no... what are people going to think...?

If I may be so bold to ask, what happen to all that “Amen & Agreement” about to the promises of God and the life you had in Christ on Sunday morning? Before all this you were singing louder than Alyssa “God is Good” and now you’re on the verge of cursing and talking trash about it’s not fair God...!

* Philippians 2:14 says “Do all things without grumbling or questioning.
  + Side note: When we are going through difficult times, we need to be careful of our words and actions. People are always watching & listening to us, and though we are not going to be perfect, and we are vulnerable at times of weakness, they are watching to see how our faith is going to carry us through. How we’re going to talk and act during our hard times. Remember your words and actions are a huge witness.

Be encouraged this morning. Just because you get hit with a tough situation or difficulty does not mean that God has left you or has anything against you...If anything, He allows these difficult times in our lives to help us grow and become more like Him!

* *Romans 5:3-4 says “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.****4****And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

* *James 1:2-4 - Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing*
* *Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

Closing:

How can we with our mouths, praise and say we love and trust God on Sunday mornings, but with the same mouth, the next day complain, whine, and snip at God about the difficulties we’re enduring. Our words will either build our faith or destroy it. Our words will bring victory or defeat. Our words will bring life or death to our faith. How about the next time difficulties arise, rather than destroying our faith with our words, we build our faith with Gods promises!

Remember in the beginning of the message I asked can you say today that you are walking in a real, day to day, relationship with God? If you are than everyone of the promises of God, in the Bible...ALL OF THEM...are to you! Let me list just a few...

* God promises to strengthen you when you are weak
* God promises to give you rest when you are tired
* God promises to take care of all your needs.
* God promises to answer your prayers. (Even if it’s no.)
* God promises to be with you always and never leaves you
* God promises to protect you.
* God promises freedom from sin
* God promises to work everything you go through, are going through, and will ever go through, out for your good and His glory!

How about we start putting our faith where our mouths are and start speaking these promises verbally over our life, over our families’ lives, over our church and stop letting the enemy, the liar, tell us what to say!

Be who you’re supposed to be...Victorious in all things through Jesus Christ and start speaking Faith and Victory and stop speaking Doubt and Defeat!

Start putting Faith where your mouth is!