

# THE PROCESS OF SALVATION: APPROPRIATING WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US

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## RECEIVING FROM GOD IS NOT AUTOMATIC

**Mat 5:6** Blessed *are* those who HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, For THEY SHALL BE FILLED.

- If you are born-again, God made you righteous – You ARE righteous by Jesus' blood
- **Eze 36:26** I will give you a NEW HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27 I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU AND CAUSE YOU TO WALK IN MY STATUTES, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.** **28** Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. **29** I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.
- WE DO NOT SEE AN IMMEDIATE COMPLETE TRANSFORMATION, yet the miracle happened in our spirit

## SEEK AND HAVE REAL THIRST AND HUNGER

- You now don't thirst for righteousness but for the HOPE OF HIS CALLING
  - You have to want it badly
  - More than the desires of your flesh

**Mat 7:7** "ASK, and it will be given to you; SEEK, and you will find; KNOCK, and it will be opened to you. **8 FOR EVERYONE** who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened. **9** Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? **11** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**Deu 4:29** But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL.

**Jer 9:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. **12** Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **13** And you will seek Me and find *Me*, WHEN YOU SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

## 4 KEY CONCEPTS TO REMEMBER

### OUR SALVATION (DELIVERANCE) IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT

- We limit God's abilities by our unbelief
- **Psa 78:40** How often **they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!** **41** Yes, again and again they tempted God, And **LIMITED THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.** **42** They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,
- Hopefully we grow in our understanding and experience

### ANY PROMISE OF GOD IS RECEIVED (APPROPRIATED) BY FAITH LIKE **THE REACHING OF PROMISED LAND BY ISRAEL**

- It took them 40 years to have what it could have taken 40 days
- We are really the same

### GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE WITH 100% GUARANTY

- **2Co 1:20** For all the PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM **ARE YES, AND IN HIM AMEN, to THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH US.**
- God is faithful

### ASKING IN THE RIGHT WAY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

- **THE RESULTS OF THINKING RIGHT**
- **We have been through 2000 years of traditions of men**
- **Mar 7:13** **MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NO EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION** which you have handed down. And many such things you do."
- Failure of people we admire or respect is the greatest deterrent
- We try to convince/manipulate God to do what He has already done for us instead of convincing ourselves
- In everything when we ask the right questions. we find/get the answer
- We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them. (Albert Einstein)

## **THE PROBLEM OF BEING SLACK OR FEARFUL**

### THE KEY TO RECEIVE THE PROMISES AND BE SUCCESSFUL

- Right thinking/believing
- Ask God with all our heart (commitment)
- This is true also for non-believers
  - They cannot have the assurance, only their determination

## **UNBELIEF: THE MAIN REASON FOR OUR FAILURE**

### **Pro 13:12** HOPE DEFERRED MAKES **THE HEART SICK,** But **WHEN THE DESIRE COMES, IT IS A TREE OF LIFE.**

- Hope = Confident, eager expectation
  - When we lose hope, we give up
- **Heb 3:12** **BEWARE,** brethren, lest there be in any of you an **EVIL** [*ponayros' = hurtful, more than morally sinful, producing anguish*]

**HEART OF UNBELIEF IN DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD;** 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we **HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEADFAST TO THE END** [*end of what? - Until we get the result*], 15 while it is said: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION.**" 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses?

- **So much for once saved, always saved –**
- **They lost it and so we can lose salvation, deliverance, healing**
- **Mat 12:43** "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation." (Also Luke 11:24-26)
- We should go not by our doctrine but by what the Word of God says
- UNBELIEF [*not believing God's Word*] IS THE SOURCE OF ALL SIN

## THE EFFECT OF FEAR OF FAILURE IN OUR HEART

- **Pro 13:12** HOPE DEFERRED makes the HEART SICK [*Disappointment = a way your heart is affected – Lost of passion*], But *when* the DESIRE COMES, *it is* a TREE OF LIFE. [*more hope, energy, life*]
- **FEAR STOPS YOU** from trying new things and believing, to protect yourself from disappointment. Many people are this way.
- **A FAILURE is not always a mistake;** it may simply be the best you can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying. (B.F. Skinner)
  - **Instead of blaming God, go to His Word for direction and wisdom**
  - **Pro 4:20** My son, **GIVE ATTENTION TO MY WORDS;** Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 **Do not let them depart from YOUR EYES; Keep them in the midst of YOUR HEART;** 22 For they *are* life to those who find them, And **health** to all their flesh.
- Sometimes by losing a battle, you find the way to win a war. (Donald Trump)
- **WE CAN LEARN MORE FROM OUR MISTAKES THAN FROM OUR SUCCESSES**
  - Why? – Because failure hurts us and makes us ponder about it – We naturally Meditate

## HOPE IS THE EXCITEMENT OF OUR FIRST LOVE

- The excitement **OF FIRST LOVE** fades away when we don't get what we expect
    - Then we blame God and we give in to unbelief and give up
- WE NEED TO BE IN LOVE WITH GOD**

- **Mar 12:29** Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments *is*: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. 30 **AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**' This *is* the first commandment.
- **Rev 2:1** "To the angel of the **church of Ephesus write**, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 **"I know YOUR WORKS, YOUR LABOR, YOUR PATIENCE, and that YOU CANNOT BEAR THOSE WHO ARE EVIL. And YOU HAVE TESTED those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have PERSEVERED and have PATIENCE, and have LABORED FOR MY NAME'S SAKE and HAVE NOT BECOME WEARY. [they should have an A+ grade, but they are not enough]** 4 **NEVERTHELESS I HAVE THIS AGAINST YOU, THAT YOU HAVE LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE. [how important that must be]** 5 **REMEMBER [1]** therefore from where you have fallen; **REPENT [2]** and **DO THE FIRST WORKS [3]**, or **else** I will come to you quickly and **REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND from its place—unless YOU REPENT. [turn around]** 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 "He **who has an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit says to the churches. To **him who overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
- **Rev 3:15** "I know your works, that **you are neither cold nor hot**. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, **because you are LUKEWARM**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will VOMIT you out of My mouth. 17 BECAUSE YOU SAY, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and DO NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked [spiritual blindness is the result of being lukewarm]**— 18 I counsel you to **buy from Me GOLD refined in the fire**, that you **MAY BE RICH**; and **WHITE GARMENTS, that you MAY BE CLOTHED [1]**, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and **anoint your eyes with EYE SALVE, that you may SEE [2]**.
- **PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LORD – 1<sup>st</sup> COMMANDMENT**
  - Love and Passion are of the Heart
  - Everything else follows positive or negative
    - PROCESS OF CHANGE
  - Same is the relationship with your spouse
  - PASSION MOTIVATES YOU, overcomes fear, makes you try things
- **THE HEART IS YOU, WHO YOU ARE, HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF, YOUR BELIEFS**
- **Mat 12:34** Brood of vipers! How can you, **being evil, speak good things? For out of the ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART the mouth speaks [not everything you say, but what is natural]. 35 A GOOD MAN** out of the

**GOOD TREASURE OF HIS HEART brings forth good things, and an EVIL MAN out of THE EVIL TREASURE brings forth evil things.**

- **Mat 15:17** Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For OUT OF THE HEART PROCEED evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20** These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

## **THE HEART IS WHERE OUR PROBLEMS COME FROM**

- **Jer 17:5** Thus says the LORD: "**Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man And MAKES FLESH HIS STRENGTH [*sense experiences*], Whose heart departs from the LORD. [*he is choosing death instead of life*]** 6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *In* a salt land *which is* not inhabited. 7 "**BLESSED *IS* THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN THE LORD, AND WHOSE HOPE IS THE LORD. 8** For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And **WILL NOT FEAR** when heat comes [*he is not blind but walks by faith, not sight*]; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, **NOR WILL CEASE FROM YIELDING FRUIT. [*he is not under the circumstances*]** 9 "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked [*sick, damaged*]; Who can know it?
- **What has influenced your heart?**
  - Your flesh = experiences
  - Or the Word of God

## **PROTECTING YOUR HEART**

- **Pro 4:23** Keep your HEART with all DILIGENCE [*when you are in love it is not an effort to be diligent*], For out of it *spring* the ISSUES OF LIFE.
- HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR HEART? BE STRATEGIC**
- **AVOID BEING EXPOSED TO TEMPTATIONS –**
    - Temptations: things appealing to your flesh that are not godly
    - Wrong thinking, speaking and behavior
    - Wrong friends - Separate yourself from people who think wrong and do wrong
  - **2Co 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." 17 Therefore "**COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE**

**SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."** 18 "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

- **Pro 13:20** He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But **the companion of fools will be destroyed.**
- OVERCONFIDENCE OF FOOLS think that it is OK and they are not affected
  - Based on wrong thinking and unrealistic
  - This is different from the Motivation of Passion
  - A PASSIONATE FOOL is dangerous

## ***THE KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS: YOUR HEART AND THE HOLY SPIRIT***

### **WORKING ON YOUR HEART**

- **You do it through your mind - MEDITATION**

### **PARABLE OF THE HEART and the WORD – SOWER and the SEED**

#### **LAW OF SUCCESS IN THE KINGDOM**

- Important parable in Mat 13, Mar 4 and Luk 8
- Understanding how Psalm 1 works
- What determines your results - both positive and negative
  - 4 Factors Determining Success: Sower, Seed, Soil, Environment
- **Mat 13:3** Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a **sower went out to sow.** 4 And as he sowed, **some seed fell by the wayside [no protection or soil to root];** and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some **fell on stony places,** where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And **some fell among thorns,** and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But **others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. [The law of success in the Kingdom]**9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- **Mat 13:10** And the disciples came and said to Him, "**Why do You speak to them in parables?**" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 **For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. [Physical and spiritual Law of exponential growth]** 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: '**HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT**

**PERCEIVE; 15 FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. [Calloused, jaded, fat, stupid] THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING [spiritual ears], AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED [a choice they made], LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN [repent, change their mind], SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.' [Failure is the result of some wrong decisions we made]**

- **Mar 4:24** Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. **With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you;** and to you who hear, more will be given. *[our judgment affects our perception - explained the law of growth]* <sup>25</sup> For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

#### **THIS TRUTH WAS A MYSTERY**

- **Mat 13:16** But **blessed are your eyes for they see,** and your ears for they hear; <sup>17</sup> for assuredly, I say to you that **many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it,** and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it.* **[many of these truths were lost for centuries, but near to the end they are being revealed – You are BLESSED]**

#### **JESUS' EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE**

- **Mat 13:18** "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the **WORD OF THE KINGDOM,** and does not understand *it,* then **the wicked one comes** and snatches away **what was sown in his heart. THIS IS HE WHO RECEIVED SEED BY THE WAYSIDE.** <sup>20</sup> But he who received the seed **ON STONY PLACES,** this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;** <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. *[temptations by influences and pressure from outside, what others tell you or think, making doubt the Word and producing unbelief for INTERNAL WEAKNESS, there was not a solid conviction]* <sup>22</sup> Now he who received **SEED AMONG THE THORNS** is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and HE BECOMES UNFRUITFUL.** *[distractions and other passions of your flesh, love of money]* <sup>23</sup> But he who received **SEED ON THE GOOD GROUND** is he **WHO HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS IT, WHO INDEED BEARS FRUIT AND PRODUCES: SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY."**
- The **OUTCOME** depends on **REMOVING INTERNAL STONES AND EXTERNAL THORNS**
- **RETURN** depends on the **UNDERSTANDING**

#### **PARABLE OF THE GROWTH OF THE SEED**

- **Mar 4:26** And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if **a man should scatter seed on the ground,** <sup>27</sup> and should **sleep by night and rise by day, and the SEED SHOULD SPROUT AND GROW, HE HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW HOW.** *[the growth is effortless]* <sup>28</sup> For the **earth yields crops by itself:**

first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. *[a process, not instant, you will see some results]* <sup>29</sup> But when the grain ripens, immediately he PUTS IN THE SICKLE *[take the harvest out]*, because the harvest has come."

#### AS THE FRUIT IN A PLANT OF CORN

- **Plant the Spiritual Seed in your heart**
  - First you hear it
  - Then you understand it
  - Finally you meditate on it
- **It takes time to develop the result after you planted the seed**
  - Roots must come out of the seed to penetrate the soil of your heart
  - The seed starts to swell in the ground
  - Small leaves start to appear
  - Stem starts to sprout out of the ground
  - Evidence of the seed starts to be there (you don't go too much by the evidence because it may change, it is a delicate balance)
- **The growth is effortless when the seed is working in the right ground, environment, and care**
- **Your job is to:**
  - Make sure the environment (surroundings) is right
  - Your Heart is exposed to things and avoids temptations
  - The seed is protected
  - No weeds grow in the same place (choosing other ideas)

### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### PROMISE OF THE FATHER

- **Luk 24:49** Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power from on high.**"
- **Joh 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. **It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not COME TO YOU; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**
- **Joh 16:13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **HE WILL GUIDE you into all truth *[this implies a relationship]***; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come.**

#### FOR MANY, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS JUST ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY

- **Stop with the Study of Scriptures and little understanding**
- **What is required is "ipignosko" = be fully acquainted, discern, deep personal experience**
  - Know a person or the truth
- **The disciples the resurrected Jesus met on the way to Emmaus**
  - **Luk 24:31** And their eyes were opened, and they **knew** him; and he vanished out of their sight. <sup>32</sup> And they said one to another, **Did not**



our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

- **It requires a real desire, effort and time to do it – HUNGER AND THIRST**

- **It is the same in a marriage relationship –**
  - Just living and sleeping together is not enough

#### **YOUR INNER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE KEY**

- **We can be too focused on what they can do for God**
  - *That may separate us from God*
  - *Martha and Mary – Who did Jesus appreciate and who did He rebuke?*
- **Your external behavior is not enough**
  - You can pray all day long and be close –
    - The Pharisees did
    - The Moslems pray more than most Christians
  - You can also study the Bible
    - Some theologians are not even born again
    - Most do not have the baptism of the Holy Spirit
    - Not many theologians can perform miracles
- **A heart relationship**
- **1Co 3:16** Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and *that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* [your heart is the contact point]**
- You must go deeper than your mind
- ONGOING EXPERIMENT in the discovery of a person with infinite attributes
- You must learn to discern His voice

#### **THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS BY YOUR FAITH (In your heart)**

- **Rom 4:16** Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that **THE PROMISE MIGHT BE SURE to all the seed**, not only to those who are of the law, but also **to those who are of the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR HEART IN YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK**

#### **EXPERIENCING THE HEART IS ESSENTIAL**

- **Christianity is not of the mind but of the heart but not many teach about the heart**
- **1Sa 16:7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "**Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature**, because I have refused him. For *the* LORD does not *see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**"
- **This is not how we judge – We do not know the heart of others**

#### **OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE IS A HEART JOURNEY**

- We connect to God with you heart, not with your mind or intellect
- Out of the heart comes good and evil
- Our behaviour is determined by our heart

- Disobedience is the result of a heart of unbelief
- We believe God with our heart – Rom 10:10
- We sow the Word of God in our heart
- God speaks to our heart

### **FAITH IS FROM THE HEART**

- Not just information BUT BY BELIEVING from the heart, we enter the Kingdom of God and receive His promises
- WE BELIEVE FROM THE HEART when we make a decision to believe the Word of God against what our senses tell us
- IN THE HEART THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE, THE SPIRITUAL BECOMES PHYSICAL
- **Pro 4:20** My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. **21** Do not let them depart from your eyes; **Keep them in the midst of your heart;****22** For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. **23** **KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.**
- **Pro 13:12** Hope deferred [*repeated failures*] makes the HEART SICK, But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.

### **OUR FAITH/OR BELIEF SYSTEM IS DETERMINED BY OUR EXPERIENCES**

- **Failure is not the result of lack of faith but of wrong beliefs – denying the finished work of Jesus**
- **Rom 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, **as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**
- **Our LIMITING BELIEFS conscious or unconscious determine what we can achieve**

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES YOU TO OVERCOME YOUR LIMITING BELIEFS**

- **Joh 16:13** However, when He, **the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come. [*new areas of freedom*]** **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.
- **This is not just Behavior Modification (Conditioning).**
  - It is not wrong but it does not change the heart
  - It can be used in parallel
- **Revelation about God's love and promises brings heart understanding that brings effortless transformation**

## ***CHANGE OF THE HEART IS BY GOD'S GRACE (empowering) RECEIVED BY FAITH***

### **THE MOTIVATION IS IN OUR HEART**

### **ISRAEL'S FAILURES - BECAUSE THEIR HEARTS WERE NOT STEADFAST**

- **Psa 78:36** Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; **37 FOR THEIR HEART WAS NOT STEADFAST WITH HIM**, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.
- **Mat 7:21** "NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, 'LORD, LORD,' SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.

#### Steadfast Faith Comes from Trusting the Lord = Trusting His Promises

- **Psa 112:6** Surely he will never be shaken; The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. **7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. 8 His heart is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.**
- **Isa 26:3 YOU WILL KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON YOU, BECAUSE HE TRUSTS IN YOU.** *[trusting in God is the spring of our faith and success]* **4 Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAHVEH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.**
- **Psa 18:2** The LORD is my ROCK and my FORTRESS and my DELIVERER; My God, MY STRENGTH, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. *[this is somebody who trusted in the Lord and was not afraid of circumstances]*
- **Psa 18:30** As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
- **Psa 37:3** Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and FEED ON HIS FAITHFULNESS. **4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And HE SHALL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.**
- **Psa 118:8** It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. *[Including ourselves and our senses]* **9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes. [the powerful and knowledgeable]**

#### TRUST COMES FROM RELATIONSHIP AND EXPERIENCE

- **Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with ALL YOUR HEART, And lean not on your own understanding; [your own wisdom]** **6 In all your ways acknowledge [Yawdah = know, see, experientially] Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL YOUR INCREASE; [false doctrine that tithing is legalistic. Abraham did it before the law of Moses]** **10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.**
- Rest

## OUR TRUST AND LOVE IS A RESPONSE TO HIS FAITHFULNESS

### JESUS SHOWED US GOD AS A LOVING FATHER

- **Luk 11:9** "So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. 10 For **EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES, AND HE WHO SEEKS FINDS, AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS IT WILL BE OPENED.** 11 **If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, HOW MUCH MORE WILL YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!"**
- **This is the opposite of what religion and Calvinism has preached**
  - A capricious God that has preferences, when we should not have them
  - Calvinism has a religious spirit
- **God Loves sinners – Jesus died for them**
  - Do you think that He loves believers as much
  - He also wants us to love sinners

#### **WE MUST EXPERIENCE HIM AS A LOVING FATHER WE CAN TRUST**

- **1Jn 4:19** **We love Him because He first loved us.**
- **Rom 2:4** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness of God leads you to repentance? [*make us change our opinion*]**
  - God's goodness is not demonstrated just by the preaching of the Good News, but by the experiencing of the Good News
- **OUR FAITH IS BASED ON TRUSTING GOD BECAUSE WE EXPERIENCED HIS LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS**
  - Same as self-confidence is based on the experience of parents' love

#### **THE FIRST COMMANDMENT IS NATURAL WHEN WE KNOW THE LORD**

- **Mar 12:30** - **AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'** This *is* the first commandment.

### **EFFORTLESS TRANSFORMATION – NOT TRYING HARDER**

#### **THE POWER OF GOD WORKING THROUGH HIS PROMISES**

- **2Pe 1:3** as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, **THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO US EXCEEDINGLY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES,** that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## FOCUS ON THE PROMISES = FOCUS ON THE RESULTS (Psa 1)

- **Psa 119:99** I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies *are* my meditation.
- **Isa 46:9** Remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is no other*; I *am* God, and *there is none like Me*, **10** DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING [*we should do the same*], And from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

- The Heart focused on the promises motivates our steps

## LEARN TO LIVE FROM THE HEART NOT JUST THE PHYSICAL SENSES

- This is more important than Understanding the heart
- THIS IS WALKING IN THE SPIRIT
- APPLY THE TRUTHS we will explore together and experiment with them
- Learn to distinguish the voice of the heart and the voice of your mind

## WHY PERSECUTION PRODUCES POWER?

- It makes you hunger and thirst for God because your environment is not comfortable. NO COMFORT ZONE
- Separates those who are committed and choose to believe from those who are not committed

**Mat 5:10** Blessed are those who are PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. **11** "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- IF YOU ARE NOT EXCEEDINGLY GLAD – YOU ARE NOT PERSECUTED