



The Stumbling Block of Faith

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Jesus said, ***“Blessed is he that is not offended in me.”*** (Matthew 11:6)

I wondered what Jesus meant by this statement until the Lord revealed it to me. He was referring to the stumbling block of faith!

Everything that we receive from God comes by faith whether it be our faith or someone else's faith. Faith is our connection to God and without it we cannot please him. (Hebrew 11:6)

When we receive our salvation, we first have to hear the word about salvation and receive it into our hearts and act upon it with our confession and actions of faith. (Romans 10:9-10, James 2:26)

This was a great offense and stumbling block for many, when Martin Luther began to preach that we were saved by faith and not by works (such) as the Catholic Church had been preaching for years.

Those who heard, believed, and acted on this message which had been revealed to Luther, became born-again in Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is received in the same way. It is received by faith!

Jesus appeared to many people forty days after his resurrection. On one occasion, he appeared to over five-hundred people at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:6) Yet, there were only 120 people still praying and seeking God on the day of Pentecost. Why? They were the individuals who had the faith to act on the promise of Jesus and were determined not to give up.

“And they did receive the promise of the Spirit, as Jesus had promised.” (Acts 2:4)

Healing is the same way, it is received by faith in the Word that is revealed, and as we act on it led by the Anointing of God, that Anointing will break the yoke (Isaiah 10:27) and glorify Jesus by healing our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11).

When Jesus ministered healing to the sick, he would always tell them to act on their faith by doing something that they were unable to do in their own strength. Many people found this to be offensive, especially if it occurred on the Sabbath.

Jesus ministered to the sick man at the pool of Bethesda. He told him, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”. (John 5:8) Jesus said this to a man who had been waiting for his healing for thirty-eight years. Offensive to the carnal mind no doubt, but when that man acted on the word of the Spirit of God which Jesus spoke, the man was healed. Praise God!

Many times we might think that Jesus should respond to us because of pity. However, he wants us to believe his word and act on it in faith led by the Spirit of God.

If we could only see how much Jesus suffered for us so that we could be healed, then we would never question why the healing is not manifesting instantly. Instead, we would praise him and act on his words in faith, as the Word of God tells us to.

Now, to the most offensive part of our faith walk as the adopted sons of Abraham, “Prosperity.”

Jesus spoke in Matthew 6:33 and told us to first seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things, natural material things, that we all need in order to live, would be added unto us.

Yet, the church, for years, has preached that there is some kind of virtue in being poor and in lack. That wealthy people must be crooks, and that Jesus and his disciples were all poor, and that we, as Christians, should all be poor in order to be humble and somehow please God.

Nothing could be farther from the true Word of God!

Under the first covenant, everybody knew that one of the signs of the blessing of Abraham, was material wealth. The word says that God made Abraham rich! Not the devil that some seem to imply. ***God is not opposed to us having wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18), he is just opposed to our being greedy idolaters. Some people are that way with very little money.***

In one day, the children of Abraham left Egypt with all the riches and wealth of that nation. That is what is called supernatural wealth transfer. ***The wealth of the wicked had been stored up for the just!***

How can we, as New Covenant believers, enter into this walk of faith in prosperity when it comes to our natural life and existence?

Firstly, we must know and obey what the Word of God teaches about tithing (Malachi 3:10) and sowing financial seed, lead by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:6-9). Most Christians know about this. However they are not taught that through this process of tithing, sowing, and reaping, God will enter into their financial realm and help them to ***increase through the works of their hands.***

The thing that is sorely lacking is good teaching of a clear vision and understanding of God's divine will and purpose for finances in the Kingdom of God today, and how it applies to our families and our Churches.

God wants us to ***live by faith*** in every aspect of our lives. He wants us to depend on Him and see ***prophetically what is His plan and His vision*** for us as ***His Children*** in the earth today.

-Roger Wågsjö