

Going Through Hard Times

Faith

Without faith we can't please God

Hebrews 11:6

*And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Faith comes from Gods word

Romans 10:17

*So **faith** comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

Faith has substance

Hebrews 11:1

¹*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

It has to affect the heart – not head knowledge

Ephesians 6:16

*in addition to all, taking up the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

Related to two areas we have recently walked through

1. Kids
2. Finances – land – dream – debt – business – failure

Now the promises

1. Kids

Isaiah 59:21

"As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."

Jeremiah 31:16-17

¹⁶*Thus says the LORD,*

"Restrain your voice from weeping

And your eyes from tears;

For your work will be rewarded," declares the LORD,

"And they will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷*"There is hope for your future," declares the LORD,*

"And your children will return to their own territory.

Isaiah 43:5-7

⁵*"Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
And gather you from the west.*

⁶*"I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
And to the south, 'Do not hold them back '
Bring My sons from afar
And My daughters from the ends of the earth,*

⁷*Everyone who is called by My name,
And whom I have created for My glory,
Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."*

2. Finances

Its going to be ok – it's a process and it will be done when its completed and you have learnt what you need to learn – it will be turned into double blessing

Is 61: 7 & 9

⁷*Instead of your shame you will have a double portion,
And instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion
Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land,*

⁹*Then their offspring will be known among the nations,
And their descendants in the midst of the peoples.
All who see them will recognize them
Because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed.*

So we had to come to a place where we had a 12inch slip from information to revelation – even then it was a process to be totally at peace with what God was saying

Things which I have learned

Going round the mountain – prophetic word and pushing though our going around the mountain

When prophetic is spoken it's the first time Satan has the Lord's plan broadcasted and will try to create a sneer, trap or obstacle

- Luke 22:28 – 34 Satan wanting to sift Peter
- 1 Peter 5:8 Devil prowls like roaring Lion looking for someone to devour
- 1 Tim 3:7 don't get caught in the snare of the evil one
- Eph 6:11 Put on the armor so you can take your stand
- 2 Cor 10:3 Weapons of our warfare are not carnal but strong.

The word will be tested – the receiver will be found out the level of faith

Examples

- Abraham – prophesied - he would be the father of nations – not working so did the fleshly thing to solve the situation
- Murray – prophesied - next 10 years devoted to resources for the kingdom – bang – started way back – picture it
- Peter – prophesied – kids in ministry
 - Churches
 - Church growth and breakthrough
 - Businesses

Wait on the Lord - Is 40:30-31 like eagles – interwoven like rope

Isaiah 40:30-31

³⁰*Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,*
³¹*Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.*

Binding together also means with His word He has spoken – acceptance but more – living it

Jesus – in the boat – have sleep/peace through the storm to have authority over the storm

Matthew 8:23-27

²³*When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.*
²⁴*And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.*
²⁵*And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!"*
²⁶*He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.*
²⁷*The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

When we looked at God – Ok

When we looked at circumstances and situation – not Ok

Don't worry!!! Cast all your cares upon Him – Birds worry? No anxiety attaches

Mt 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?...

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Phil 4:6–7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Keep your vision – focus

Jacob – blessed though business but kept the vision alive by popular and beaches

In dream God speaks – the prophetic destination – the promise –

Gen 28:15 ¹⁵*“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

Gen 29:16 ¹⁶*Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face. ¹⁸Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.”*

¹⁹*Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me.”*

²⁰*So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.*

²⁷*“Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years.”*

²⁸*Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.*

14 years to complete the mission – just to get a wife who was good looking enough to wake up to in the morning

Gen 30:36 ³⁶*And he put a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.*

³⁷Then Jacob took fresh rods of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white stripes in them, exposing the white which was in the rods.

³⁸He set the rods which he had peeled in front of the flocks in the gutters, even in the watering troughs, where the flocks came to drink; and they mated when they came to drink.

³⁹So the flocks mated by the rods, and the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

⁴⁰Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban; and he put his own herds apart, and did not put them with Laban's flock.

⁴¹Moreover, whenever the stronger of the flock were mating, Jacob would place the rods in the sight of the flock in the gutters, so that they might mate by the rods;

⁴²but when the flock was feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

⁴³So the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks and female and male servants and camels and donkeys.

Get a picture

Some form of visual impact – computer screen – photos – toilet door

Process

Timing of God – a process

Joseph

In Gen 37 - age of 17 has 2 dreams where he see's himself in a place of leadership and authority. It is clear to him and others that there is a divine grace on this man for leadership. What happens then is that the very opposite of his dream occurs and Joseph was thrust into a process of preparation that lasted another 14 years. Then in one day God lifts Joseph up from prison to prime minister. I have heard it said that it took 14 years for Joseph to become an overnight success.

David

Anointed as king – 16 years – hunted like a dog

Moses

Lead my people – 40 years

Solomon

1 Chronicles 28 – commissioned to build temple by David – so act – started 4 years later – finished 20 years later

Jesus

30 years – started ministry

There is a divine action which connects with a human process

None of these things comes to us as an event, but all occur as a result of an ongoing process, and engaging with this process enables us to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Often we are trusting God to move in situations of our lives and change everything in a moment - an event versus going through a process that requires time or change on our part. We want the event, we love the event, and we preach the event while ignoring the process that leads to the event.

There is a shaping, molding, in- to- me- see process

Abraham – process – he by faith saw – look into the sky – see the stars – one offspring

Persistence

Stand firm – stubbornness is the spirit – perseverance – determination – tenacity

2 Corinthians 12:12

*The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all **perseverance**, by signs and wonders and miracles.*

1 Corinthians 16:13

*Be on the alert, **stand firm** in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

Ephesians 6:11

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil.*

Romans 5:2-4

²*through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

³*And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;*

⁴*and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;*

Romans 15:5

*Now may the God who gives **perseverance** and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,*

God gives it – but only when we wait!

Celebration

Do something - celebrate rejoice

Isaiah 54:1

The Fertility of Zion

¹"Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child;
Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed;
For the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous
Than the sons of the married woman," says the LORD.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-17

¹⁵See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

¹⁶Rejoice always;

¹⁷pray without ceasing;

1 Peter 1:5-7

⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

James 1:1-3

Testing Your Faith

¹James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

If there's no testing then is there any faith?