

Have Great Faith

²¹ *Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.* ²² *A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”* ²³ *Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”* ²⁴ *He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”* ²⁵ *The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.* ²⁶ *He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”* ²⁷ *“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”* ²⁸ *Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.”* (Matthew 15:21-28)

Life is really a battle of faith. We live and move by faith in God and in what His word promise to us. Faith helps us to interact and move forward toward God in responding to the event of life. Faith also help us to receive and enjoy God’s promises. ²² *“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.* ²³ *“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.* ²⁴ *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”* (Mark 11:22-24)

Faith also helps us and enables us to pass through hardships and hard times of life. In the above chosen Scripture it tells the story of the Canaanites woman who came to the Lord asking Him help to heal her daughter whom she was possessed by demon and had suffered much. When you read the story the first impression it seems like Jesus does not like to help her because *Jesus did not answer a word*. And that respond of Jesus made the disciples think that the Lord may be does not like that particular woman therefore *his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”*

Many also who read that Scripture about the Canaanite woman they take the impression that the Lord did not like or accept that woman because He answered his disciples the following: *“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”* And some also they questioned whether Jesus love and care only toward the Jewish because they put the reason that Jesus did not accept that woman because she is non Jewish.

But the truth is not like this. Never in the heart or mind of Jesus to differentiate or to favour someone over another unless based on the principle of His word. Jesus is not intended to push that woman away, but His intention was to bring up to the surface her great faith and make it more evident.

Sometimes God answer you when you pray, but in another times God is silent and not speaking as he did with that woman. But that does not mean that the Lord had rejected you or He does not like you. At these times remember the Canaanite woman and how by faith she continued to draw near to God. Even the disciples response to her was discouraging but she continued to draw near to Jesus. Sometimes the disciples of Jesus will discourage you or hinder you from drawing near to Jesus but you don’t need to be discouraged, do as the Canaanite woman did, *the woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said*. Never allow trial to bring you away from Jesus. Remember

very well your need is with Him; He is the only one who can help you and deliver you from your troubles. So when you have a problem don’t allow anything to confuse you and discourage you and misdirect you away from the Lord, but draw near to Jesus and don’t believe the realities but believe what God is and what His word promise to you.

Jesus said to this woman, *“It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”* Even with that she was not discouraged and she answered the Lord, ²⁷ *“Yes it is, Lord.”* Certain Scripture that you may read and understand that some blessings are far from you, but don’t take the Scripture with a pessimistic impression. The woman she did not say to the Lord ‘No,’ but she said, *“Yes it is, Lord,”* and her faith enabled her to see the blessings deep in the word of Jesus, and she responded more appropriately to Him by saying, *“Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”*

God always is storing blessing for us, but we need to live by faith and not to look on circumstances or trials, but to look unto His promises and His word by faith. The Canaanites woman did not only have faith but she had also discernment and discerned that Jesus is the only person who can help and solve her problem. She did not move away but she move forward to draw near to Him. You also in the same way don’t allow any negative comments, or insult, or injustice or persecution or hardship or trial bring you away from Jesus and lessen your commitment toward Him. If you do that then you are not acting in faith and you are moving away from deliverance and away from God’s provision and blessings in your life. That woman as she was drawing nearer to Jesus she was making the right choice, Jesus approval and recommendation. Even the disciples learned from that event and I pray that all of us as we meditate on this story our faith would increase and we will make the right decision to draw near to God in serving Him and in persevering in life, living our lives unto Him, for this is the only way to be blessed as we understood and concluded.

In the book of Ruth we read that Naomi when she decided to go back to Bethlehem she urged her two Moabites daughters in law who were widows to go back each of them to her mother’s home and to get married with another husband. *“Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.* ¹⁵ *“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”* ¹⁶ *But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.* ¹⁷ *Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”* ¹⁸ *When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.”* (Ruth 1:14-18) Naomi was pushing Ruth to go back but Ruth she had the faith and the discernment that the God of Naomi is the true God, therefore Ruth determined to go along with Naomi. And finally that brought great victory and blessing for Ruth for God gave her Boaz, a kinsman redeemer as husband and she got from him a son who became a grandfather of David.

My Dear and Beloved: The same should be for you, don’t let anyone discourage you and direct you to go back, but press on and move forward to draw near to God and build more trust and more commitment unto Him showing your great faith as you agree to pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your encouraging word to me. Lord I commit my life to draw near to you and have more trust in you and your word inspite of all trials and hardship that I am facing. Thus I am moving forward toward you, Lord strengthen me and uphold me with your grace in Jesus name, Amen.*