

Live To Please God

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Faith is to believe that what God has promised He would surely fulfill. But there is a gap period between God making a promise and the time that He is going to fulfill it. The period may be short or long but finally God would fulfill what He promised or said but during the gap period or the time of waiting troubles may come. We may pass difficulties or trials that disappoint us until we even get the impression that what we are waiting for will not be given to us at all. At such moments what sustains us is our real faith in God. For we live in this life not by what we see or what we face, or by what comes on our way but we live by faith.

WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

The people of God 1500 year B.C., they were living in Egypt. They were under slavery of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. But God look to their suffering and misery and He decided to bring them out from Egypt into the land he promised to their father Abraham using His people. But the Lord made miracles and wonders that brought out His people with great victory. After God’s people left Egypt, Pharaoh and His army followed to destroy them but God protected them. The Lord God opened the Red Sea – the water of the sea departed and dry land appeared for the people of God to walk and cross to the other side. While Pharaoh’s army was following them, the water came back and swept the whole army to death that not even one returned alive.

Glory to You, O Lord! How awesome is your mighty acts. The Lord had done mighty work to save His people and to bring His people into the Promised Land to fulfill His promise to Abraham. ***“To your descendants I give this Land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates.”*** The time interval when God had the promise to Abraham until He sent Moses to bring out His people from slavery to the Promise Land was about 400 years. It was a long period but God finally fulfilled what He said.

While the chosen people of God were on their way toward the Promised Land, the Lord said to His servant Moses who was leading them: ***“Send someone to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving.” So Moses sent twelve men to explore the Promised Land and he said to them, “Go up ... and see what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (Numbers 13:17-20)***

Indeed they went to explore the land but when they came back, ***“They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the Land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities there are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there’.” (Num. 13:27-28)*** The explorers described what they had seen but they gave the information with the impression that discouraged the people. ***“They spread among them bad report about the land they had explored. They said, ‘The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes and we looked the same to them’.” (Numbers 13:32-33)*** But all these they said because they have no faith in the Lord God, the One who brought them out of Egypt and had promised to give them land flowing with milk and honey.

But two of those who explored the Land said to the entire assembly. ***“We would go up and take possession of the Land, for we can certainly do it. The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” (Numbers 13:30, 14:7-9)***

As it is written: ***“And without faith it is impossible to please God.”*** Finally, those who believed God and trusted Him, they entered the Promised Land and receive their inheritance. But those who did not have faith in God did not enter and they did not receive their inheritance.

My dear and beloved: Without faith we cannot please God – He who had sent His Son Jesus. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** Jesus died for us on the cross. After three days He rose from death to give eternal life to those who believe in Him. As we go through this life we may face difficulties and troubles but we should have faith and trust in God. He gives us what He promised, and even if delayed still it will come. Let us not be troubled and let us not be discouraged. For it is written, ***“Anyone who trust in Him will never be put to shame.”*** The Lord will neither leave us nor forsake us. So let us be men full of courage and faith. Let us be strong for no matter how many promises God has made, they are all “Yes and Amen” in Christ Jesus, our Lord and God.

My Prayer: ***“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross to forgive my sins, and who lives again to give me eternal life. Lord, strengthen me, forgive me and cleanse me from any doubt; remove from my heart any discouragement; Increase my faith in You so that I can please You and live a life according to your ways. I thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”***