

Faithfulness and Gratefulness Rewarded Part 2

“11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. 19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.” (Luke 17:11-19 KJV)

God in every day is doing for us great and wonderful things in our lives. Every day you wake up in the morning God has already did a miracle in your life. Sometime you see it in your eyes and sometimes not yet visible to you but you receive that through your faith in the Lord and your trust in His mighty power. Therefore the choice to be faithful to the Lord is something that we have to adopt because God is always at work in our lives and His grace is so abundant and that would compel us to be faithful to Him.

Now if we chose to be faithful to the Lord then we will be more blessed. Faithfulness toward the Lord is a positive reinforcement for us to discern more of His power and enjoy more of His blessings in our lives. Faithfulness toward the Lord we should adopt in our lives as way of living, knowing, convinced and assured that the Lord is faithful and He will reward us for all our faithfulness toward Him. The Lord have seen how that leprous man responded to His grace and therefore He rewarded him and add more blessings in his life when He told him, “19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.” (Luke 17:19 KJV)

A. Arise: Jesus enabled that leprous man to stand on his ground. The word ‘Arise’ here it means that the Lord ordained this man and approved him as His servant. The same for us, as God is doing a great miracle and favor in our lives and we respond faithfully to Him, then the Lord’s great work and anointing will move in our lives; the word “Arise”, is to come up out from weakness toward power. We have good example from the Bible: Balaam spoke the following to Balak who summoned him to curse the people of God; he said to him the following about the faithful people of God: “20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it. 21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. 22 God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn. 23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought! 24 Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion; he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.” (Numbers 23:20-24 KJV) As we prove our faithfulness toward the Lord, His anointing will go before us and will combat all the evil forces that our enemies and Satan may wage against us. We will be like lions for the Lord rising up and victoriously dealing with the enemies. With the anointing of Jesus we can combat witchcrafts, conspiracies and all human and devil politics and manipulations. That is why we need to be faithful to the Lord Jesus so

we will receive such a power. As Jesus said: “19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19 KJV) As Paul said: “20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (Romans 16:20 KJV) Jesus shall give such power and privileges only to the faithful. That is why as we persevere to be faithful God shall enable us to arise and go forward and crush the power of the enemy as we read here, “8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.” (Psalm 20:8 KJV)

The word “Arise” it means to move out from hiding to face the enemy with the tactics and the strategy of the Lord as we can read in what God instructed Joshua how to take the city of Ai: “1 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: 2 And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it. 3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose out thirty thousand mighty men of valour, and sent them away by night. 4 And he commanded them, saying, Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city: go not very far from the city, but be ye all ready: 5 And I, and all the people that are with me, will approach unto the city: and it shall come to pass, when they come out against us, as at the first, that we will flee before them, 6 (For they will come out after us) till we have drawn them from the city; for they will say, They flee before us, as at the first: therefore we will flee before them. 7 Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.” (Joshua 8:1-7 KJV) So let us rise from where we are now with the strategy of the Lord that we need, and take possession to what the Lord had entrusted to us from ministries and fields of harvest.

The word “Arise” from the mouth of the Lord it gives us the strength and the courage to face sin and wickedness. That what happened at the time of Ezra when God enabled him to face the issue of unfaithfulness of the Israelites in marrying non believers: “1 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore. 2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. 4 They gave Ezra the authority and the right to decide on their behalf: “4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it. 5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swear.” (Ezra 10:1-5 KJV) As we show our faithfulness to God He will enable us and give us authority to face sin and deals with wickedness and with the issue of the unlawful marriages.

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.” (Isaiah 60:1 KJV) As you obey and show your faithfulness toward the Lord the anointing of the Holy Spirit will fall upon you and will ordain you to do God’s work and achieve His will.

B. "Go": The Faithful leprous man who came back to the Lord he did God's will. His action and attitude was approved by the Lord and he was rewarded by the Lord who commissioned him to arise and to go to achieve God's will and work. The word "Go" can be found in the following Biblical matter and resources:-

1. "15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15-16 KJV) The Lord sent the leprous to the mission field with back up and approval because such person with such above grateful attitude can proclaim the right message: * God's grace to the world should be received with repentance. * Those who are faithful and who had showed attitude of repentance they are the right people to go and to preach the right message to the lost. Because those people will go and will tell others about all the good things that the Lord had done and teach them what they need to do. They can go to the whole world because they have power and authority from the Lord who had enabled them to go and do His work.

2. "1 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. 2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. 3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. 5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. 6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. 7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. 8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: 9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. 10 But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, 11 Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. 12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city. 13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. 15 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell. 16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me." (Luke 10:1-16 KJV) As the Lord called the seventy of his disciples and gave them authority and sent them to the mission field, the Lord will send all those who are faithful to Him to the mission field to go and evangelize and make new disciples.

3. "19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV) The Lord will send His disciples, those who are true followers and faithful to Him to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all the things the Lord had instructed us to observe.

C. "thy faith hath made thee whole": The ten leprous all of them had received healing from the Lord, then what is the difference between the nine leprous and the one who came back to the Lord? The nine they receive physical healing but they are unwell spiritually. While the one who came back he is healed physically and he is well spiritually. The practical difference between those who are faithful and those who are unfaithful to the Lord is the following:

I. Those who are unfaithful to the Lord: they receive material and even spiritual blessings from the Lord when they are in distress and the Lord will even had answered their prayers in a profound way. But because they are unfaithful the Lord will not be with them in their lives. Therefore when they will face the next problem in life they will fall down and be in distress and cannot manage. So every now and then you found the following in them: One problem is solved then just with in short time they fall in another problem and they cannot manage. Why this is happening in their lives? Because God wants them to truly come back to Him in repentance and not only they have come to the Lord to take material blessings, or they come to Him for quick relief of their troubles.

II. While the faithful and those who respond favourably to God's blessings in their lives they are victorious in life as they walk with God: Those who are faithful to the Lord they will go from strength to strength, from glory to glory and from victory to victory. They are able to stand trials and hardships because they are approved and backed up by the Lord. Faithfulness is true guarantee for the future and enablement to face trials and live victoriously in life.

My Dear and Beloved: When the Lord healed the ten leprous men, did not tell them to come back, did not tell them to kneel down to Him, did not tell them to come and serve Him, did not tell them to thank Him, but he was waiting for them to do all such spontaneously. The one who came back, no one had told him or taught or reminded him to do what he did. In the same way, God wants you to do all that spontaneously, with willingness and with joy.

Be faithful and to the end toward the Lord, for your faithfulness will be rewarded fully by God. The Lord will equip you and enable you to go forward and face trials and achieve victories in life for He will be always with those who are faithful and obedient to Him, 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 and rose again from the death to give me eternal life and life to the full. Lord thank you for your Word of correction and the teaching that I received in this message,

Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Renounce the sin of the lack of commitment, the lack of fear of God, the unfaithfulness, ungratefulness, disobedience and the non willingness to serve the Lord, etc. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to walk in the way that you want me to walk. Lord here 'Am I,' at your disposal, use me and send me for your glory to reach the lost. Lord equips me with more spiritual gifts and anointing to be more effective in my service to you. Lord I commit myself to cultivate more fruit of the Holy spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience,

perseverance, self-control, long-suffering, that people will see Jesus in my life.

Lord thank you for my brethren who committed their lives to you and to the principles that we learned from this message. Lord fill them with your Holy Spirit, anoints them and empowers them to go on and serve you and carry on your will, to evangelize and reach the lost.

Lord bless us as a church; help us to go and evangelize reaching new people and planting new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord help us to fulfill the vision of the church 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faithfulness and Gratefulness Rewarded Part 2. Luke 17:11-19. Numbers 23:20-24. Luke 10:19. Romans 16:20. Psalm 20:8. Joshua 8:1-7. Ezra 10:1-5. Isaiah 60:1. Mark 16:15-16. Luke 10:1-16. Matthew 28:19-20.

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