

God's Calling Requirements
Part 43
Have The Right Faith

“1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. 3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. 5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. 7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” (Luke 17:1-10 KJV)

Our Lord Jesus Christ was in discussion speaking to His disciples and He mentioned to them important principles about faith and how they need to conduct themselves in the world. As we will read and study together the passage there we will find facts and truth that we need to know and apply in our lives that will perfect our faith.

1- Offences will come “It is impossible but that offences will come”: Trials or troubles, and even people will sin against us or troubles us will come. Whatever you will do to avoid or to protect yourself from troubles, problems or offences shall come into your life.

2- You need to be obedient to God and to keep good testimony, “It is impossible but that offences will come”: In spite of all the offences against you the Lord still needing you to be obedient to your calling and keep the good testimony, so others will know and see Christ in you. You are accountable to God to keep the correct pattern of life even when you are exposed or pass through troubles.

3- God shall deal with those who had caused offences on you, “but woe unto him, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.”: Vengeance belong to God and He will be the one to deal with evil doers who sin against you.

4- Take heed to yourselves, “Take heed to yourselves”: Watch yourself and avoid revenging and taking the place of God in dealing with the evil doers. Watch yourself and be careful to keep your good testimony while you are passing through trials.

5- Be accountable to deal with sin, “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him”: Those who sins against you, you are accountable to face them and rebuke them. Not to flatter those who do wrong, nor avoid facing them nor speak behind them. You need to go and face them

and speak directly to them and not to other person. God wants transparency in His church and no compromises; sin and sinners needs to be dealt with.

6- Forgive those who repent, “and if he repent, forgive him.”: God want us to forgive sinners and accept them after they are repented. God really wants us to forgive those who repent, “4 ***And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.***” Jesus here linked forgiveness with repentance. He did not link it with saying ‘sorry.’ Many they come and say sorry, but they are not repenting.

7- Be aware of what kind of faith you have, “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith”: The apostles after they heard what the Lord is wanting from them to do in their lives, and to be accountable to deal with sin, and how transparency is so required and repentance must needed to forgive, they asked the Lord, “***Increase our faith.***” It seems it was a heavy thing for them to do that; to keep a pattern, to keep a good testimony, to deal with sins, to rebuke sinners, sin must be exposed, repentance is required before forgiveness, and forgiveness to those who repented. When they said to the Lord, “***Increase our faith,***” What they meant is that they cannot do what He asked them to do. Their faith was incorrect one. They don’t need to increase their faith but to be willing to obey the instructions of Jesus.

Jesus in response to the question of the apostles to increase their faith, He gave them another two parables to explain to them what is going on inside them and what are the defects that they are living with.

A- “6 ***And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.***” Jesus here told that if they will have a faith in size the same size of mustard seed, which is small seed, they can tell to sycamore tree to be uprooted and to be planted in the sea. It is not the size of faith will matter, but are they willing to obey Christ instructions and do exactly what He wanted them to do? Many disciples for them faith is miracles and wonders but themselves are not willing to do their parts by implementing Christ instruction.

B- “7 ***But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.***” In this story, Jesus was telling them that they are accountable to God to do HIM service and to comply with the kind of life that He ordained for them to live. The Lord also instructed them how their faith will be corrected and increasing by their willingness to accept suffering, hard work and humiliation for the sake of Christ as He narrated to them the parable that speak about the life of that particular servant. Many who will come to Christ they would expect miracles and wonders to happen in their lives and that is true and correct. But in addition to that and it will accompanying it, there will be suffering and pain and that should be expected. Many they will expect and put in their minds that coming to Christ means privileges, authority, financial

gains, leisure and more and better facilities. The story of the servant that Jesus had put in front of His apostles had made things more clear to them and it will make it clearer to you this very day.

8- Expect to get involved in hard work of different kinds, “But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle”: The servant who was working in the field, farming and caring for the animals, was having a hard work, and two faculties was involved in his work. He was called to manage two things together, farming and caring for animals. You expect the same in your life and service to God.

9- Expect to get involved in long hours work, “will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field”: This servant will start his day early morning, and when that servant was going home exhausted, there at home he would not rest, but he needs to continue to work and prepare the food for his master, then stand and wait for his master to finish. Therefore be patient and persevering in doing all your assignments.

10- Don’t grumble but be thankful that you have work to work, food to eat and place to lodge and sleep, “and afterward thou shalt eat and drink”: What we had read in that parable of Jesus, that servant had a work to work, a home to come back to lodge and food and drink to eat and get satisfied. Be thankful to all what you had been given, even to small things. Be thankful for the strength that God is giving to you to do all what is required of you. In addition to that when you work your conscious will be clear with man and with God because you know that you had done your part well.

11- Don’t put in your mind that the people would think about your hard work and offer you rest and food to eat, “will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?”: The servant when he would come back home, he would not put in his mind that his master would think how much he had worked hard and that he need rest and would offered him food and refreshment. Many who serve God they would expect that the people whom they are serving will feel their pain and appreciate their hard work. That it should be true, but in reality, men incline to abuse and take advantage of those servants of Christ. If you are determined to follow Christ and serve Him, then the aforementioned details are good policy and strategy to adopt. It is better that you will not expect, so when you will not find people on that level of expectation then you will not be daunted or discouraged.

12- Don’t put in your mind appreciation, invitation, gratefulness and gratitude toward your good service and deeds, “Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not”: If you still waiting for appreciation, invitation or reward and gratitude from the people, this will not happen, and such expectation will lead you to frustration and discouragement.

13- Review all what you need to do and be sure to do them all, “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you”: Me and you are serving Christ, and from Him come salvation, eternal life, receiving promises and rewards. Therefore we are accountable to Him and our eyes shall be on Him and on His commands to do them. Pride will make you look to get something from the people. But humility will make you see clearly that you are serving Christ and you do all what you are called to do in order to please Him.

14- Check yourself now and see what are the things that you did not do, so speedily accomplish them, “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you”: Don’t waste your time with arguments and self pity, that will not help you, but rather be wise and use the opportunity to perfect your responsibility toward Christ and His calling into your life. Continue to be diligent in serving Christ by serving Him and His people.

15- When you shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do”: Crown your humility with that statement, not only you say it but need to live it.

My dear and beloved: I pray that this Word of God had helped you, and will correct and increase your faith. The standard that the Word of God teaches us to adopt it makes our journey to heaven easier and with less pain, baggage, anger, grumbling, trusting men, unforgiveness, self pity, etc. Come back to your sense, and understand this way of life and service. Ask God forgiveness for your sins _____, and if you are running in another standard, then you need to correct yourself and once again commit your life to continue to serve Him in the above describe way 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 from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that makes things clear to me. Lord I ask you forgiveness for _____. Today I commit my life to live for you and serve you as your Word in this message taught me. Lord always reminds me, helps me, sustains me to overcome and provide my needs for me to continue to serve you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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