



DANIEL FAST DEVOTIONS

21
DAY

January 6-January 27
2019

led by Pastor Michael Steve Brown

TVC
TRUE VISION CHURCH

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feeding your soul,
strengthening your spirit
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Monday, January 14, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Faith
Title: Your Old Life Can't Hold You New Growth

Mark 2:22

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins."

Two things do not mix: new wine and old wineskins. The reason is simple: old wineskins cannot grow and stretch to hold the new wine. The new wine God wants to fill you with is expansive; it is a picture of God's Spirit. It always brings an enlargement. A container that is dead, dry, stiff and shrinking back cannot be entrusted as a storehouse for God's valued treasure. Our vessels must be prepared for the fresh, dynamic, living presence of God – everything we do will flow from it. This preparation comes through prayer and fasting, producing a container that is ready for the new thing God wants to do. God's new wine always changes us – it expands our faith, enlarges our purpose, and brings renewed vision.

Everything God does is expansive, He is not into shrinking wineskins – it is up to us to shed them. Just as a growing young child cannot fit their clothes from the year before, as God grows us in the area of our faith, we also need to find spiritual clothes that will better accommodate our new growth. As we seek Him in this season, let's shed the old wineskin and ask God to fully prepare our hearts for what's to come.

What has caused you to shrink back in your expectation of what God wants to do in your life? Are you ready to be expanded beyond recognition? That's what God's new wine will do in and through you.

Prayer Point: Pray the Lord will expand your life to glorify Him, giving you the clothes of kindness, boldness and humility to go with the new you.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Faith
Title: When You Are Tempted to Doubt

Psalm 73:1-3

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful,

When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Why do the unrighteous prosper while the godly suffer? This is an age old question. This question is the source of doubt for many believers. The psalmist Asaph asked this question 3,000 years ago and many are still asking this very question in different ways today.

Asaph knew what he said about God in the first verse was true. He proclaimed God to be good, yet there was another truth that disturbed him greatly. It made him almost stumble; it made his steps nearly slip. He was a direct witness to the prosperity of the ungodly. He saw God being good to Israel but He also saw goodness given to the unbelievers.

I'm sure Asaph must have thought; what good is there in being good? If the wicked enjoy the same prosperity as the pure in heart, then what is the reward of godliness? Why am I praying, studying, praising, and giving if the wicked get good in this life and are not doing any of the things? Asaph admits that what he saw caused him to become envious.

So what do you do when you start to doubt? First you go to God and be honest about how you feel. I took maturity for the psalmist to admit his envy. Secondly, you continue to worship God and put yourself in a place to hear from God. Verse 17 of this psalm, Asaph said it was not Until he went into the sanctuary of God; that he understood. Lastly Asaph begin to focus back on his relationship with God and he stopped looking at what was going on with the evil doers. He realized that God was in control and in due time all things would be settled.

Prayer Point: Pray for your faith focus to be on the relationship between you and God.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 TVC Devotional

Subject: Faith

Title: Do you Hear what I Hear?

Romans 10:17

7 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

There is a Christmas song entitled "Do you hear what I hear". This song is about Jesus, the lamb of God. The song is about the night wind speaking to a little lamb, the lamb speaking to a shepherd boy, the boy speaking to a mighty king and the king speaking to the people about what was seen but most importantly what was heard. Their hearing about Jesus stirred their hearts and moved them from seeing, to hearing to knowing and then to praying and praising. All of this was based on what they heard.

Paul tells us that our faith is somewhat like that. Our faith comes by hearing the Word of God. So then, faith by hearing; in other words, we have to hear the message. Our faith leads us to salvation. God provides salvation through Jesus. We affirm that. Salvation doesn't come by intuition, it doesn't come by meditation, it doesn't come by speculation, it doesn't come by philosophizing, It does not come by anything else but it comes by hearing a message. A message has to be given. That is an essential element in evangelism. We have to hear and herald the truth. In Acts 20 says Paul gave thorough testimony concerning repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It had to be a thorough testimony. We've got to have the information before we can make the commitment.

In the Greek text, the part of the verse that says, "and hearing by the Word of God", really says by the Word of Christ. Our faith does not come by just hearing anything, it's a specific thing that must be heard. We must hear the Word of Christ. The Word of Christ, what's that? That's a message about Christ. How do you get saved? Through faith. How do you get the message? It comes by hearing. What is the message? It's preaching about Christ. Salvation then comes to those who hear about Christ and believe. That's all he's saying.

Lastly let me say, in the original language, it also means, faith keeps on coming as we keep on hearing. We have to constantly refresh and refuel our faith. You can't live out 2019 with 2018's faith.

Do you hear what I hear?

Prayer Point: Pray that we will be motivated to position ourselves to continuously hear God's Word about Jesus.

Thursday, January 17, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Faith
Title: Is God really that hard to please?

Hebrews 11:5-6

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But 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 diligently seek Him.

Is God really that hard to please? Some would think so, but I differ. On the contrary, God is easy to please. Think about this, He is loving, merciful, and kind and all that He does on our behalf is buried in His grace. He's not hard to please, we're just hard headed. He doesn't require a lot to be pleased, He just wants genuine faith.

There is this relatively unknown man in the Bible named Enoch. His simple life is recorded in the book of Genesis. He lived in the pre-flood period. He lived 365 years, one year for every day of a calendar year, relatively short for that time when many others lived for over 700 years. Little is known about Enoch. He didn't build an ark like Noah. He is not known as the father of the faith like Abraham. He didn't lead a people to freedom like Moses or lead people into the Promised Land like Joshua. We don't know much about Enoch, but the one thing we do know is that he had faith. I would say he had an amazing faith. His faith was so amazing, that he was one of two people in scripture that did not see death. But more importantly, we know that because of his faith, he was pleasing to God. And if we are going to please God, it must be by faith.

Here is how it all works. Romans 10:17 reminds us that FAITH comes by HEARING the Word of Christ. Hearing is evidenced by OBEDIENCE. We really only obey what we TRUST. And when we do this, God is pleased.

So If you really want to please God, have faith in Him. Hear Him, Obey Him and Trust Him. Have faith that God is real and pursue Him with the passion of your faith. He will reward you.

Prayer Point: Pray that God will position you in a life of faith so that your life and lifestyle will be pleasing to Him.

Friday, January 18, 2019 TVC Devotional
Subject: Faith
Title: What Are You Afraid of?

Matthew 8:26

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

One of the last things I ever want to hear God say to me is that my faith is small. This is what Jesus said to His disciples when they became fearful of their lives because of a storm. Here is the short version of the story. Jesus, after healing a leper, healing a Centurion's servant, healing the mother-in-law of Peter and many others, entered into a boat with His disciples. The Bible then says, suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But in the midst of all of this, Jesus was asleep. Because of the storm, the disciples, woke Jesus up, and said to Him, "Lord save us", we are about to die. The Lord's response to them was a critique of their faith. He asked them why they were fearful and said that they had little faith.

Understand this, Jesus rebuked their fear and unbelief, not their request or their waking Him up. We shouldn't think that Jesus was in a bad mood from being awakened (I would have been very upset). Jesus was upset at their fear, because fear and unbelief go together. When we trust God as we should trust Him, there is little room left for fear.

Notice in the midst of the storm raging, Jesus did not speak to the storm first, He spoke to the disciples first. Here is the reason why, our storms are not a problem for God, it's us that He has the hardest time dealing with. Jesus knew the storm would quickly and easily obey. So Jesus does not chide the disciples for disturbing him with their request, but for disturbing themselves with their fears.

The disciples actually had many reasons to have faith, even great faith. Remember they had just seen Jesus do significant miracles, showing His great power and authority. They also had Jesus with them in the boat. One of the Lord's great promises to us is that He would be with us and we should not fear. Lastly they saw Jesus asleep. Now don't get me wrong, He was not asleep on the job. In that sense, He never slumbers or sleeps. But Jesus was asleep, at peace and His peace should have given them peace.

Prayer Point: Pray that we would remember God's past display of power and authority in our present and future challenges.