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Growing in Biblical Faith

A sweet lady came up to me. This was years ago, and she said in an unsweet voice that I had given her prophecies about her future that had not yet happened. “You and other preachers have prophesied many things to me over the years, and none of it has happened”, she said. I looked at her with the nicest look that I had and responded. “You know that you have something to do with that.” I went on to explain to her that when God gives a person a prophecy about their future, it is to show them where they will end up if they obey and follow Him.

So many Christians are hoping and believing for things to change. Quite often I will hear people say that they are believing for a miracle in their lives. When I ask them, “How are you believing?” they usually look at me funny. To them, believing means that they are waiting for something to change in their circumstances and it is their job to patiently wait for God to bring that change. I try to explain to them that God has already finished His job when Jesus died on the cross, and it is our job to bring ourselves to a place of believing. That is why I ask them, “How are you believing?”

Believing God for something to change in your life is not only waiting on Him, it is also working on the areas in our own life that have hindered us from believing that He is who He says He is. The truth in every situation is that **if we believe that God is who He says He is, and we also believe that He can do what He says He can do, then at that exact moment we will have what He says.** The famous Faith verse that all of us should know is Mark 11:24, *“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

This verse means that, if we are lacking in an area of our life, then the only reason for that is that we do not believe in Him. It is important for you to know that every one of us struggle, in one way or another, in believing God for something. It is also important to know that you can equip yourself with everything you need to believe God. God longs for you to believe Him so that you can truly know Him as your Father. When a young daughter gives her daddy a hug at bed time, there is something very special and personal that happens between the two of them, and that is what happens when you allow your Heavenly Father to bless you; you are accepting Him as your Father.

I want to share one of the greatest ways for you and I to grow in our believing. This will work in every area of our lives and it will help us to know God from the depths of our hearts and if you will do this with me then we will grow in our love for Him. For many years I heard that I needed to place the Word of God into my heart in order to believe. I would guess that you also have been given this same advice for your life. I realize that this may seem like old fashion advice but I want to show you how to meditate on God's Word correctly so that it absolutely will change your life.

It seems to me that the church is starting to move away from the importance of God's Word, and has begun to lean too much on experiences with God, as their way of knowing Him. I love it when people will spend hours in worship with God's presence, and when they have glorious experiences with His love. These times are very important, to encourage us and minister to us. However, if these experiences are the foundation of our relationship with God, then we will always be lacking. One time I was preaching a meeting that was continued into a revival. I went from a scheduled five day meeting, to one that was carried on for over two years.

I personally ministered the first thirty days and then it was continued on by other ministers after me. It was during these meetings that the Lord showed me the importance of God's Word being founded into our hearts. I loved the people in these meetings because they had such an incredible hunger for God. The meetings would last sometimes past midnight, with the love of God and His miracle power flowing freely. I watched as people would worship with all of their hearts and would become enveloped by God's love.

Night after night we would continue to find love and grace in God's glory for hours and hours. Then one night God began to speak to me about maturity, He spoke to my heart and said that it was important for us to mature in Him through His word and not just be blessed by His glory. The way that He explained it to me was that "a drunk man gets drunk each night to forget about all of His problems but when he wakes up the next morning his problems are still there, but a mature man is one who overcomes his problems until they go away".

He was showing me that we were like spiritual drunks, coming to God each day to get a taste of His presence, and we were being blessed every night, however He wanted more for us than just that. He wanted us to also gain in maturity, so that we could overcome those problems we were facing. Hebrews 6:4, "*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and it is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" This is why the Word of God is so important for us, because it will become a strength to us to overcome everything that we face in this life.

Many Christians have felt invincible because of the wonderful experiences that they have had with the Lord but when circumstances changed they found themselves lost and hopeless. Many people have received wonderful prophecies and specific words from the Lord about their future but because they never pressed in to the Lord, and to the scriptures, they lacked in the foundation that God needed to fulfill those words. God's word in our heart is the foundation of all the wonderful things that God has for us.

Spending time in scripture is a huge investment into your future; as you read and place verse after verse into your heart something powerful happens. These are God's thoughts and opinions that are pouring into you and bathing your mind in truth. You are equipping yourself with the wisdom and strength from God. The foundation of all believing is the Word of God that is placed into our heart. Simply grab your Bible and begin to read a book of the New Testament and soon your future will begin to change. Don't get fancy and use scripture reading books where you read one scripture from one place and another scripture from somewhere else, and don't worry about looking up commentaries or the Greek and Hebrew. Simply take one book of the New Testament and read it from beginning to end, and know that with every word that you read you are placing something that is alive and beautiful into you heart. Your future will never be the same.

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