

WHEN GOD SETS HIS HEART ON YOU

Part # 2

5-22-22

JAMES 4: 8 – “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

Job 7: 17, 18 – “What is man, that thou (God) shouldest MAGNIFY HIM? And that thou shouldest SET THINE HEART UPON HIM? And that thou shouldest VISIT HIM EVERY MORNING, and TRY HIM EVERY MOMENT? ”

GOD SETS HIS HEART ON US, WHEN WE SET OUR HEARTS ON HIM.

Hebrews 10: 38 – “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”.

WHEN WE DRAW BACK BY FAITH: GOD DRAWS BACK FROM US.

HEBREWS 10: 39 – “But we are not of them who DRAW BACK unto PERDITION; but of them that believe (By faith in the Word of God) to the saving of the soul.”

The English phrase “Draw Back”, is the Strong’s Greek word # 5,288 and is found four times in the New Testament K.J.B. This English phrase means in the Greek: “To withdraw one’s self, i.e. to be timid, to cover, shrink; of those who from timidity hesitate to avow what they BELIEVE; to be unwilling to utter from FEAR; to shrink from declaring, to conceal, DISSEMBLE (HEBREWS 10:25)”.

“Perdition”, is the Strong’s Greek word # 684, “Apoleia” and means “The utter destruction which consists of eternal misery in Hell”.

HEBREWS 12: 1 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perserverance the race that is set before us,”

HEBREWS 11: 2 – “For by it (Faith in the Word of God) the elders obtained a good report”.
FAITH is confidence, in the trustworthiness of God. It is the conviction that what God says is true and that what He promises will come to pass. Because these men and women walked BY

FAITH and not by sight, the O.T. saints of God; received divine approval. The rest of this chapter; is an illustration of how God has borne witness to them and how their testimony bears witness to us.

FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD, enabled people in the past to OVERCOME. These are some of great examples of GODLINESS, that past men and women had; in which all had different circumstances and personalities, but they all had one thing in common – FAITH. The readers of Hebrews, these Jewish Christians; were discouraged and thought of giving up on Jesus and His teaching and they needed these examples of faith, to break them out of their discouragement. So, the writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds these believers and us; that they are surrounded by “A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES”.

HEBREWS 11: 3 – “Through faith we UNDERSTAND that the worlds were framed BY THE WORD OF GOD, so that things which are seen were not made of things which appear”. The world says, “SEEING IS BELIEVING”. God says “BELIEVING IS SEEING”. Jesus said to Martha, “Said I not unto thee, that, if thou WOULDST BELIEVE, thou SHOULDEST SEE THE GLORY OF GOD (JOHN 11:40)”. The Apostle John wrote, “These things I have written to you who believe . . . that you may know” (1 JOHN 5:13). IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS: FAITH PROCEEDS UNDERSTANDING.

1. HEBREWS 11: 4 – “BY FAITH Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained WITNESS THAT HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, God testifying of his GIFTS: AND BY IT HE BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH (Witnesses to us).

“ABEL”: ATONING OR SACRIFICIAL FAITH. Faith is displayed at the beginning of man’s history. GENESIS 4: 3 - 5

GENESIS 4: 3 – 5 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Abel must have had some revelation, that sinful man can approach God only, on the grounds of SHED BLOOD. When Adam and Eve sinned; they “Sewed fig leaves together”, to “Cover” their “Nakedness and sin (GENESIS 3: 7)”. It was their faulty “Man maid” attempt to cover up their sins but GOD GAVE them “Coats of skins”; which required a “Blood sacrifice”, of the animals; in order to cover up the sin and rebellion against God. Abel approached God by Faith; with the blood of a sacrifice. Cain’s sacrifice came through the works of his own efforts and his sacrifice was bloodless. Abel illustrated the truth of salvation; that salvation comes by faith through “Grace (Christ Jesus’ shed blood on the cross) (COLOSSIANS 1: 12 – 14) and will be followed up by the believer’s good works. Cain’s sacrifice, points to his confidence in his good works and man’s futile attempt to save himself, by good works. Abel was killed by Cain because self-righteous man hates the truth, that he cannot save himself and that he must cast himself on the love of God and God’s mercy and provision.

2. HEBREWS 11: 5 – “BY FAITH Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: FOR BEFORE HIS TRANSLATION HE HAD THIS TESTIMONY, THAT HE PLEASSED GOD”.

“ENOCH”: TRANSLATION FAITH. GENESIS 5: 21 – 24

GENESIS 5: 21 – 24 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

The writer of Hebrews assumed, that only a man of Faith could enjoy close communion with God. Obviously, anyone who had this kind of fellowship with God, must have pleased God and in pleasing God, Enoch fulfilled the purpose for which man was created (REVELATION 4:11 – All things were created, including mankind, was created for God’s pleasure).

HEBREWS 11: 6 – “BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM”.

This is the basic faith required of any who seeks God. One must believe that “He is” (That He exists), and he must believe that He is a “REWARDER” (Giver of everlasting life) of those who “DILIGENTLY” (The only right response in believing that God exists) SEEKS HIM. This verse tells us that it is not difficult to seek God, without faith. This verse says, that is “IMPOSSIBLE”, to seek God without faith.

- (3). NOAH: PERSERVERANCE AND ACTIVE FAITH. GENESIS 6: 8, 9, 29; 2 PETER 2: 5

HEBREWS 11: 7 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

- (4). ABRAHAM: OBEDIENCE FAITH. GENESIS 12: 1 – 4; HEBREWS 11: 8 - 10; ROMANS 4:1 - 25

HEBREWS 11: 8, 9, 10 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

By FAITH, he DWELT IN THE LAND OF PROMISE: Abraham lived, as a “Sojourner” in the land God promised, never owning any of it, except the plots that he and Sarah were buried on. The word “Dwelt” translates from the Greek word “PAROIKOS”, and describes a “Resident alien” – one who lives at a certain place, but doesn’t have permanent status there.

- (5). SARAH: LIFE GIVING FAITH. GENESIS 17:15; 18: 9; 21:1; ROMANS 4:17

HEBREWS 11: 11, 12 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Sarah’s faith was not perfect. She first LAUGHED IN UNBELIEF (GENESIS 18: 9 – 15) and then she learned to LAUGH IN FAITH (GENESIS 21: 6).

HEBREWS 11: 13 – 16 - (Read) - (K.J.B.)

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah; are the first five (The Biblical number for God's Grace); are "Examples" (Witnesses to us) of Faith, in Hebrews chapter 11 and in each one of the first five, is a short summary, on their emphasis of "God's Grace" and what it means to "Live by Faith".

Verse 13 - The Patriarchs all died in Faith. They did not need to seek faith on their deathbed. THEY DIED IN FAITH. Though they did have FAITH, they did also die. We do not have Faith to ESCAPE DEATH, but to DIE IN FAITH. They never went beyond faith or grew beyond, simple dependence on God. They never went below faith or lost their faith in God. They did not live to see the fulfillment of the divine promises. For instance, Abraham never saw his numerous progeny. The Hebrew nation never occupied all the land that had been promised to it. The O.T. saints never saw the fulfillment of the promise of the Messiah. But their "Telescopic Vision" (They saw things "Afar off"); brought the promises near, so near that they are pictured them in joyful anticipation. They realized that THE PRESENT WORLD was not their final home. They were content to be strangers and pilgrims, refusing the urge to nestle and to make themselves comfortable with the present world. Their desire was to pass through the world, without taking any of its character upon themselves. Their hearts were set on pilgrimage.

Verse 14 – Their lives indicated plainly that they were seeking a homeland. Faith implanted a homing instinct in them which was never satisfied by the delights of the land of Canaan (Israel). There was always an "INTERNAL DESIRE" for a better land, which they could call a home.

Verse 15 – In saying that they were seeking a homeland, the writer wants to make it clear that he is not referring to the land of his birth. If Abraham had desired to go back to Mesopotamia, he could have done so, but that was no longer home to him.

Verse 16 – "But now they desire a better country"; "Country", that is the Strong's Greek word # 5,124, which is a pronoun, meaning "That thing" (Country – home). That is, a "Heavenly Home", "Heavenly", is the Strong's Greek word # 2,032 and means "Existing in Heaven; of heavenly origin or nature". "Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY".

HEBREWS 13:14 – "For here have we no continuing CITY, but we seek one to come".

In REVELATION 3: 8, to the "Church of Philadelphia", God says "I know thy works: behold, I set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Then in REVELATION 3: 11, it says "Behold, I come quickly: HOLD THAT FAST WHICH THOU HAST, THAT NO MAN TAKE THY CROWN." God is saying to the church; do not surrender your faith in Him and in so doing, lose your everlasting reward; to trials and persecution. In REVELATION 3: 12, also to the same Christians it says this: HIM THAT OVERCOMETH will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the CITY OF MY GOD, which is NEW

JERUSALEM, WHICH COMETH DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD: and I will write upon him my new name.”

In REVELATION 21: 2 it says: “AND I John saw THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN FROM GOD OUT OF HEAVEN, PREPARED AS A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND”. In REVELATION 21: 10 it says: “And He carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that GREAT CITY, THE HOLY JERUSALEM, DESCENDING OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD”.

The “Holy City” or “The New Jerusalem”; is the “Jerusalem of Hope (HEBREWS 12:22)”, the “Jerusalem above (GALATIANS 4:26)”, and the place of our real citizenship (PHILIPPIANS 3:20). The Apostle John used the most striking, beautiful image he could think of. The most beautiful thing a man will ever see is his “Bride” coming down the aisle, ready to meet him. The Apostle John said that this is how beautiful the “New Jerusalem” shall be.

REVELATION 21; IS THE RECORDING OF THE “FINISHING” OF THE HISTORY OF TIME AND WHERE THE HISTORY OF ETERNITY BEGINS!

REVELATION 22: 19 – “And if any Man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of THE BOOK OF LIFE, and out of THE HOLY CITY, and from the things which are written in this book”.