

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2008

Faithful Over the “Few” Things

Ruler over the “Many”

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over few things, now become ruler over many things. (Ref. Matt. 25:23)

One day while praying for a particular outcome to a situation, I heard the Lord say “be faithful over the *few* things and I’ll make you ruler over the *many*.”

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone? You’re talking about the price of gas in the Midwest; and their response regards the climatic conditions in the Middle East. Somehow you get the feeling that the two of you are in completely different conversations. You know, you’re not exactly “on the same page.”

Well that’s how I felt when I heard the Father’s response “...faithful over few things...ruler over many?”

If the average American *speaks* at a rate of about 300 to 500 words per minute; we certainly must *think* at a rate approaching the speed of light. In a fraction of a microsecond, with a great deal of respect; I asked the

Faithful over Few ...

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

Unity from the Top Down

Have you ever wished that your children or your employees would work better together? If so, you are not alone. Dozens of studies show that the ability to work well in a team is a key skill employers look for. There are even psychological tests that can be administered to assess one’s *teamwork* acumen.

It’s amazing though, while employers, and parents, both want effective teams; many don’t provide training to develop this skill. It makes one wonder, who is responsible for generating an atmosphere of *teamwork*. Allow me to submit to you that it is the leader’s (or parent’s) responsibility to foster an environment of *teamwork* or unity.

As Christian leaders we have a spiritual reason for implementing principles of unity. You may be a leader in your home, on your job, in school, your community, or in your church. Wherever you and I lead people, we are to do so in the spirit of unity. Psalms 133 says that God has commanded blessings in environments where there is unity (KJV by reference). There are also several other scriptures that talk about the benefits of *unity*. In the gospels Jesus prayed that his disciples would be *one*.

Why is it so important to foster *unity*? Please note a kingdom principle at work in Genesis 11:6 says that because the people were united nothing would be restrained from them (KJV by reference). *Unity* is a

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prerequisite to effective goal attainment for any group or relationship. As leaders, you and I can create a spirit of *unity*. Please understand that *unity* does not mean we will always agree on everything. Instead, it means we consent to work toward a common goal that will benefit all parties involved, irrespective of our differing opinions.

Now, you may be wondering how you can create an environment of *unity* in your particular situation. Well, the details of this type of training are beyond the scope of this article. However, if you search the Internet or the Public Library for *teamwork* training materials, you will find a plethora of resources.

The goal of this article was just to put a “bee in your bonnet.” It’s a reminder that we, as leaders, are to assume responsibility for creating and maintaining an atmosphere of *unity* and *teamwork*. When we implement “top down” *unity* God will surely bless the work of our hands!

God’s best. *ff*

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Lord, how His response correlated with my prayer request.

Trust me, you had to be there.

He said, “Be faithful over the few things, and I’ll enable you to rule over the many things.” Now, I was praying for a situation, so I didn’t understand the reference to the “few things” and the “many things.” I pondered that for some time. Although grammatically incoherent, I later heard, “be faithful over the “*you*” things and I will make you ruler over the “*them*” things.” I could have sanitized it a bit and said “be faithful over the “*you*” things and I will make you ruler over “*those*” things.” But we’ll just let it stand as stated.

The lights came on!! The Lord had said to me that if I am faithful over myself, he would make me ruler over my circumstances and my environment. In many ways, the state of our environment is merely a reflection of the state of our selves. I then understood the wisdom in this revelation. It is absolutely profound. He was telling me that if I governed myself with discretion, then governing circumstances would be a “cakewalk.”

Please bear with me as I try to share what I came to understand.

Faithful over Few (Self)

Everywhere, the scriptures teach us the importance and the necessity of having governance over ourselves. We are taught that we are to love one another; have patience; maintain self-control; be gentle and kind; govern our tongues; keep our hearts with all diligence, etc. All of these, and countless other scriptures, teach that we are to sustain right and appropriate expressions of ourselves. I believe that we can all attest to the difficulty of this mandate. Contrarily the scriptures attest to the feasibility of these directives. We are reminded that “we can do ALL things through Christ, who is our strength.” Perhaps many of us would like to dismiss this with “easier said than done.” But this does not absolve us of our responsibility nor does it indemnify us against penalty for noncompliance. And whether we want to admit it or not, the condition of our lives and the lives of our friends and family give testimony to this truth. The truth is that we each have a responsibility to govern ourselves according to the dictates of God, as expressed through the scriptures. And when we elect to do otherwise, we by default accept the consequences of such a decision.

DIAMONDS



For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever, believes on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome and to us, we are admonished to present our bodies (including the mind, will and emotions) as a living sacrifice to God. And of course, everything that we give to God must be Holy and acceptable to Him. Now in order to "present" or "give" a thing, we must have both jurisdiction over and possession of the thing given, right? If we do not have possession of ourselves and our faculties, we could not possibly offer them to God for His service, could we?

That being said, how exactly are we to be faithful over the "you" things?

Well, if we walk according to the leading of the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh (Ref. Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:5). These two are mutually exclusive of each other.

The Spirit gives us joy and peace; teaches us to be patient, gentle and meek; enjoins us to have faith and exercise temperance (Ref. Gal. 5:22-23). The Spirit also teaches us to love; as well He teaches us the characteristics of love and its various expressions (Ref. 1 Cor. 13: 1-8).

The scriptures teach us that as we increase in patience we have control over our souls. (Ref. Luke 21:19) That is, we'll have control over our thoughts; control over our decisions and control over our emotions. We then understand what James (1:3-4) means when it says that as we grow in patience, we will find that we are not lacking in the other virtues.

We are told that a person who is slow to anger is better than a person who has strength; and a person who has jurisdiction over his spirit is better than one who conquers a city. Can you see that having control over self is far greater than having government over a city?

The heart of the wise gives prudence to his mouth and increases the knowledge he speaks. (Ref. Prov. 16:23)

If a person is consistently discrete about the use of their words, they are mature and able to control their whole body. (Ref. James 3:2)

The person who knows what is right to do and does not do it, is inexcusable and has committed sin. (Ref.

James 4:17 paraphrased)

The scriptures are replete with examples of our responsibility to govern ourselves according to the laws of God.

Can you see that it is no light thing to bring one's self under control? Thankfully, by the grace of God, it is do-able.

Ruler over Many (Circumstances)

Once we have ourselves under control, we may then begin to orchestrate our circumstances.

Whosoever shall say to this mountain, be removed and cast into the sea and shall not doubt ... shall have whatsoever they say. (Ref. Matt. 21:21-22) Here we are given a great opportunity to control our environment. Think "*blank check*." You may recall that "mountains" represent spiritual authorities. We have been given license to rid our environments of the control of the enemy, using the weapons of our warfare. Our weapons of war are the "shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God." (Ref. Eph. 6:16-17) The weapons of our warfare are not fragile or impotent; they are mighty through God. They subdue the work of the enemy and the flesh. The sword of the Spirit is very sharp and discerning; it reveals what is of the flesh and what is of the spirit. (Ref. 2 Cor. 10:4; Heb. 4:12) Having thus been discerned, we are able to relegate to the cross, what belongs to the flesh. And we are able to surrender to what belongs to the spirit. As we come to understand this, we can see why the Lord can then enable us to have control over our circumstances. When the flesh is subject, and the spirit rules, the Lord knows that we will control our circumstances in God-honoring ways.

We find Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. He had been beckoned there by Mary and Martha, because Lazarus was "sick unto death." Jesus is in a situation that for most of us would have been quite overwhelming. What was he supposed to do; Lazarus had been four days dead, when they arrived. If it were us, we might likely have paid our respects and comforted the family. Instead Jesus prayed; Lazarus got up; they went home and had dinner. (Ref. John 11) Circumstances were under control.

In Capernaum a tax collector asked Peter whether Jesus believed in paying taxes. Jesus, having heard, sent

Peter to the sea with the directive to pull up the first fish and take the coin, out of the mouth of the fish, to pay their taxes. (Ref. Matt. 17:24-27) The situation is under control.

Jesus was never without resources and answers. Can you imagine having such a life? It is one of the many promises, given to us in Christ Jesus.

Believe it or not, controlling external circumstances is, by far, much easier than controlling the internal environment (self). And so we see the wisdom in God’s direction to control *self* first and *circumstances* will come easily under your control.

I now admonish you to deal faithfully and truthfully with your self and your flesh, (with the help of the Spirit) and watch your circumstances come easily under your control. <96N>

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

JEWELS



Your environment controls the expression and development of your genes. If your environment is unsuitable having good genes won’t help.

Question: Why did our Father make this the case?

Answer: Because while we cannot control our genes. We can control our environment. And thus control our expressions, our thoughts, our words and our deeds.

We have all sorts of genetic information in our bodies, much of it dormant, until environmental influences activate them.

Dr. A.E. Wilder-Smith (*Environment or Genetics*) and JoAnn C. White



The Greatest Proof of Victory

By David L. White



I have often wondered *how* I could **know** that I have victory in a matter. I believe that I *should* know that I had victory; but couldn't quite get my hands around how I was to actually account for that knowledge. What was I to base this faith on?

The Lord says that Jesus is the “author...of our faith.” Heb 12:2 KJV paraphrased. That means that faith (that is acceptable to God) **must** originate in Christ, it must originate in God, otherwise God will not honor it. Indeed, for righteousness sake He cannot honor it.

Here, upon this point, is one of the pivotal mistakes that we as Christians make. We have been so taught by the “modern gospel” that we should believe in *ourselves*; that we should believe that we *ourselves* can do whatever needs to be done. It is most interesting how contrary this concept is to the scriptures. Paul says it best that “I know in me, that is in my flesh, dwells no good thing.” Rom 7:18 KJV paraphrased. Now trust ... things that are not good for us, can look good, taste good, smell good, feel good, look noble, nice, sweet, etc; but they hold not spiritual value. We can never trust in *ourselves* as it regards the purposes of God.

We can trust in the Holy Spirit to lead us if we have already established a relationship with Him. But consider this. Trusting in the Holy Spirit is done when we commit all that we control; our energy, our emotions, our will, our service, etc. to hearing and obeying the directives of the Holy Spirit.

So if we cannot trust in our self, our talents, our gifts, etc; then what do we look for in God? What is it that says that I have victory? What is the assurance in every single situation in life that victory is to be had? The scriptures answer these questions this way; “but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will

with the temptation make a way of escape” 1 Cor 10:13 KJV paraphrased. Let us not confuse 'escape' here with “defeat.” I’m being transparent here. In this context, “escape from temptation” is victory in the highest sense of the word. “Escaping from temptation” is daily walking and continuing in righteousness even though the enemy is trying to coerce you to sin.

In that same scripture, this word “with” in the Greek is 'sun' which has a mysterious translation. It literally means 'along side'. This is to say that in the same package you have both temptation, and victory. This is so much the case, that when you *see temptation* you should automatically also *see victory*.

Now this ability to *see* is not based on capabilities inherent in “self.” It is based on faith in the reality that God will not allow *temptation* to be sent out of the factory without *victory* in the package with it. Consider it like this. Almost everybody these days has a cell phone. When you buy a new cell phone you know that in that same box is at least one battery. Nobody buys a new cell phone and worries “man, now I have to go find a battery for this thing!” You are, in fact, so sure that there is a battery, that it never crosses your mind that you *might* be missing the battery.

However we have become accustomed to thinking of *temptation* as synonymous with *defeat*. We have sought out, believed in, and attained *defeat* so often in our sinful life that we assume defeat in temptation. You’ll notice that the Word of the Lord doesn't even reference defeat with temptation here. It says simply that “with” temptation the Lord has made a way of escape, or has made for us victory. This gives us exactly what we are looking for.

The very fact that there is a temptation is proof conclusive that victory is packaged therein. It is conclusive that upon arrival of temptation that victory came in on the same plane, and they sat in the same seat. In fact not only did they fly the same plane, sitting in the same seat; they came into your life for the same purpose... that God would be glorified in and through you as you are conformed into the image of Christ.

◇ K&N ◇

A Journey to Intimacy

What Did You SAY?

You shall have whatsoever SAY!!!

This is the promise of our Lord in so many places throughout the scriptures. But the key to this success is to understand what is meant by the act of “saying.”

We often think of “doing” as a function of our hands and feet, “thinking” as a function of our minds, and “saying” as a function of our mouth.

May I submit to you today, that “saying” is what you do with every faculty of your being? And all of your “saying” needs to be in unison. You cannot “say” with your mouth, what you do not “say” with your other faculties.

If I “say” with my mouth something that I do not simultaneously “say” with my mind, my hands and feet, my thoughts and my actions, then I have not “said” at all. From this we understand why we do not have

