

GOD's Call to His People

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"We've come this far by faith..."

FAITH... Jesus spoke a lot about faith... I know you've heard some of the quotes that Jesus said... On one occasion, He said, "*O ye of little faith*"... On another occasion, He marveled, and said, "*Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*". But the scripture that has impacted my life the most is

Matthew 9:29 KJV Then touched he their eyes, saying,
According to your faith be it unto you.

According to your faith be it unto you...

As I was preparing for this study, I found myself contemplating on the words to the song... "We've come this far by faith". I felt as if the Holy Spirit of God was speaking to my human spirit, and asking me a question...

And this is the question: **"If** you've come this far by faith, then how great is your faith and how far have you come?" That's a profound spiritual question, not only to me, but to the Christian church today. "How great is your faith, and how far have you come?"

According to your faith be it unto you...

In other words, we can limit our faith walk by our choices. God allows us to choose. We choose the limits we put on faith. We choose the limits we put on the promises and blessings of God.

According to your faith be it unto you...

God works according to our faith not according to our opinions, or the opinion of our peers, or what we feel, or what we think our capacities or abilities are.

If we've come this far by faith, then how great is your faith and how far have you come? Think about our current local, and national situations; think about our current Christian walk; think about our Christian mission and listen to the question...

How great is your faith and how far have you come?

It's a personal question... My response was to hold my head down low... It is not only a personal question; it is also a faith community question for the "Body of Christ" New Testament Church... How great is your faith and far have you come (personally and as a faith community) in meeting the challenge of the Great Commission?

*Matthew 28:18-20 CEV ~ Jesus came to them and said:
I have been given all authority in heaven and on
earth! ¹⁹Go to the people of all nations and make*

them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

God has sent Ministry Warriors to His people, and He sent these warriors into the battlefield of the city, yet we, His people did not support the Ministry Warriors; they went to the battlefield, and we were not with them... God was by their side, yet we His people, did not go. We watched, we judged, and we complained...

How great is your faith and how far have you come?

God has sent Ministry Judges to His people, to determine if we would choose to increase or decrease, to live or die, yet we, His people did not stand with the Ministry Judges, because we did not agree with the choices. We wanted to continue to do things our way, and like Pharaoh we became more stubborn...

How great is your faith, and how far have you come?

God has sent Ministry Builders to His people to equip His house and His people to go to the next level of our mission, yet we His people, did not stand with the Ministry Builders, because we did not want to build. Building would attract people that we did not want to include. We rebelled against the change and continued to be stubborn...

How great is your faith, and how far have you come?

"We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord..."

When we look around us, the neighborhoods that we live in, the city that we work in, or live in, or worship in... can we really say, "We've come this far"? Have we as His people, forgotten to lean on the Lord? Have we as His people, forgotten that we should be on the battlefield in mission? The mission ~ the Great Commission ~ is for all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life...

How great is your faith, and how far have you come?

Oh my Lord, is there any hope for your people?

And the answer is yes... there is Hope for God's people... The key is in our personal relationship with God. The key is having a humble spirit, and a continual prayer life. The key is living a life that reflects the grace and glory of God.

*2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and **pray**, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

After King Solomon finished building the Temple for the Lord, the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's House, then the king **prayed** to the Lord God and the Lord answered...

*2 Chronicles 7:12 LITV ~ And Jehovah appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him, **I have heard your prayer**, and have chosen this place to Myself for a house of sacrifice.*

*2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (KJV) – ¹³If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or **if** I command the locusts to devour the land, or **if** I send pestilence among my people; ¹⁴If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

God spoke, and He said **if** there are catastrophic storms, droughts, blights, famines, epidemic pestilences or pandemic plagues in the land and the people of God remember 'whose they are', and come into His presence with obedient and humble hearts in prayer, then God will hear and attend to them.

The answer to King Solomon's **prayer** is true today and it is true for our nation. When the land is under attack, God has given us the answer. We just need to meet the requirements. We need to meet the conditions.

Our land is under attack physically, mentally, financially, emotionally and spiritually: droughts, floods, blizzards, tornados,

hurricanes, earthquakes, oil and chemical spills, environmental destruction, bankruptcy, foreclosures, unemployment, national disunity, stress, trauma, tension, anxiety, drugs, public swearing, disrespect, bullying, violence, murder, corruption, racism, hunger, greed and "all the works of the flesh" are evident in the land...

Galatians 5:19-21a - ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like...

God says **If** the land is under attack and...

If My people will **humble themselves**...

If My people, will

- stop being arrogant and proud
- stop being full of selfishness
- modify their behavior, attitude, and spirit
- empty themselves from egotism, and snobbery and conceit
- show obedient and submissive respect
- show gentleness, and meekness and spiritual quietness

...and **If** My people will **pray**...

If My People will...

- earnestly ask of Me
- offer a reverent petition to Me
- make an earnest and urgent request of Me
- communicate with Me with sincerity in their hearts

...and **If** My people will **seek My face**...

If My People will

- **S**earch for Me
- **T**hirst for Me
- **A**pproach My throne of grace
- **R**ealize they need Me out of necessity
- **C**ome into My presence
- **H**unger and crave for My company

(Apply **STARCH**, i.e. vigor to their energy and resolution)

...and **If** My people will **turn from their wicked ways**...

If My People will...

- repent
- confess with their mouths and believe in their hearts
- rely upon My Strength and My Wisdom and My Guidance
- be transformed by the renewing of their minds
- reject, repel and refuse evil
- turn to the Truth

Then, I the Lord their God will hear from heaven...

I will

- remember them
- be made aware of them
- take notice of them
- pay attention to them
- consider them
- examine them
- listen to them
- attend to them

...and I the Lord their God will forgive their sin

I will

- exonerate them

- forget that they have sinned and transgressed against Me
- give them My compassion
- make atonement for them
- be merciful, and bless them and cover their sin
- take away the blemish
- wash them thoroughly
- cleanse them
- pardon their iniquity according to the greatness of My mercy

...and **I** the **Lord their God** will heal their land.

I will heal

- their backsliding
- their tongues with My Truth
- their thoughts with My Word
- their hearts with My Love
- their bodies, souls, and spirits
- their relationships, marriages, and families
- their corporations and institutions
- their nation

I will heal their land.

My pardoning mercy will make way for **My** healing mercy...

If My People... **God's people**... We hold the key.

To heal our land is based on this condition:

If God's people – those who are called by His Name

- Shall **humble** themselves – get out of selfishness, self-centeredness and self-pride and stop pretending to be what they are not
- And **pray** – communicate with God
- And **seek** His Face – meditate and have a relationship with God
- And **turn** from their wicked ways – let the Word of God take root in their hearts through faith
- **Then He will hear** from heaven – because their prayer will produce praise and their praise will produce worship and their worship will bring God's glory
- **And He will forgive** their sins – because their rightful place through the Blood of Jesus Christ is in the righteousness of God
- **And He will heal** their land – marriage, children, family, home, church, school, employment, business, government, city, state, nation...

God says yes, there is HOPE, and it is based on our choice. And

if our choice is to follow Him, then we must also realize that

*Hebrews 11:6 ... **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.

To be on the battlefield... to really come this far by faith — there is no turning back to the ways of the world for us—and that is our challenge...

*Matthew 9:29 KJV ~ Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.***

2 Corinthians 5:7 KJV ~ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

We've come this far by Faith...

According to our faith, be it unto us. Amen...

The “**If**” Covenant Condition for God's People

As God's people, we have a covenant with God as a decree for our life and our life style...

God says “**If**”... Listen to His call...

God wants us to decide which way we are going to go.

God's call is for us to be all the way in or get all the way out.

There is no halfway. We can no longer be lukewarm.

- With one foot in Faith and the other in Fear
- With one foot in Belief and the other in Doubt

- With one foot walking in Obedience and the other foot walking in Rebellion
- With one foot in Wisdom and the other foot in Ignorance

Christians, straddling the fence... We must make a decision to do His will or Not... Listen to His question...

How great is your faith, and how far have you come?

Hear again the Hope in His Word...

*2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and **pray**, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Do we pray? Are we intercessors? Have we crowded prayer out of our lives? God is calling out to the Body of Christ... Those who profess Jesus Christ as their LORD and Savior... Those who acknowledge the Holy Spirit as their Comforter and Teacher; He is the One who leads and guides them into all truth according to God's WILL and purpose...

God's call is a personal and faith community declaration to demonstrate the connection between God and His people.

- A Humble Spirit
- A Continual Prayer Life
- A Personal Relationship With Him
- Heartfelt And Genuine Attitude of Repentance

Listen to His call... God is calling His people...