

Faith and Deeds Part 4

“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24 KJV)

We will continue to speak today about the deeds and the faith of Abram, and how his deeds went along his faith in God. ***“17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.” (Genesis 14:17-18 KJV)*** Here we can read that after the great victory that Abram had over the enemy and after he achieved his purpose for God, two persons went out to meet him. The first person was the king of Sodom, and this in link to the wicked city of Sodom can represent the devil with all its evil inclinations that works to tempt you to cause you to do evil against God. The second person was Melchizedek the king of Salem who represent God, being the priest of the most high God, he was a type of Christ being a priest of God and a king, and we can read about him in the Scriptures, ***“4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” (Psalm 110:4 KJV)*** and, ***“1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.” (Hebrews 7:1-3 KJV)***

So in short after each and every victory that take place in your life two persons will come out to meet you; Satan who will try to pull you to do wrong, and God who will come to bless you, to comfort you, to provide your needs and to have fellowship with you as Melchizedek the priest of God went out to meet Abram, ***“18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.” (Genesis 14:18-20 KJV)*** King Melchizedek here ***“brought forth bread and wine”***, as if similar to the Lord's Supper that Jesus did with His disciples and had taught us to do. The bread represent the body of Christ that broken on the cross and given for us for the forgiveness of sins and the wine represent His blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins as we can read in the Scriptures, ***“14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you:***

this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:14-20 KJV) And as Paul wrote to us, ***“23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.” (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 KJV)***

Now here your faith will be tested with the actions that you are going to do after you receive a victory and the blessings from God. Let us learn from the action of Abram so we will learn of what we need to do:-

1. Abram entertained Melchizedek the king of Salem who came out to meet him, and received the further blessings of God: “19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:” (Genesis 14:19 KJV) **Your faith will be tested with the actions that you are going to do after you receive a victory and the blessings from God.** Abram entertained Melchizedek the king of Salem who came out to meet him, and received the further blessings of God. **Therefore as you do the right thing, then you will receive the further blessings from God/** Abram was faithful to God. He acknowledged that the victory that he had in restoring his brother Lot and his goods and in delivering other people from these cities that were plundered, had come from God and the Lord alone needed to receive the glory and honor that is due to Him for what He did.

The fellowship with God and with His people is what God is ordained for us to do. Many after they will receive victory, promotion, deliverance, help and support, they will turn their back to God and go with their friends, neighbors or relatives and spend good time with them and spend money on them and make for them parties and good reception, forgetting God and forgetting His church that prayed and cared for them, and forgetting their commitment toward God and what they vowed and what is due for them to do. **When God answers your prayers, give you deliverance, give you victory or promotion, or whatever favor and good things He did to you, the first thing you do is to go to God in prayer and thank Him and do your responsibility towards Him; you come to His church and testify about His goodness to you, have fellowship with the brethren, committing your life to the Word of God and to the ministry and the service of God and do what is ordained for you to do for His church.**

In ***Luke 17*** Jesus met ten lepers and healed them but only one person came back to Him and showed faithfulness to Him. Let us read that event: ***“11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. 19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee***

whole.” (Luke 17:11-19 KJV) Jesus said, *“Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?”* Jesus was asking about the nine who did not come back to Him. They received healing from God; He answered their prayers, restored them back to their homes and families, but after that they did not come back and report to God and made it a point that they will submit to him and serve Him. ** Faithfulness to God and to His church should not be lacked in those who had received many good things from God. * When you received victory from God and He answered your prayers and delivered you and restored you, He did not that because you are good or because you deserve it, but He did that because He is good and He love you, and He had prepared good works that He needs you to go and do it; therefore you need to come back to Him and to His church and start to serve Him.* Abram was faithful to God by going to meet and entertain the priest of God and have fellowship and by giving his tithes to God. *Believers in Christ should be faithful to God, to Jesus Christ, to God’s Word and to the church that God had placed them in and to the pastor and the church leaders who cared for them.*

When God blessed you, provided for you and did miracles in your life and gave you plunders, you should not be unfaithful to God and move and go with your friends and entertain the work of the devil and show negligence to God, to His church and to His Word and to His work.

Let us learn more from the actions of Abram so we will learn of what we need to do after we received a victory and the blessings from God:-

2. Abram gave His tithes to the Lord: “And he gave him tithes of all.” (Genesis 14:19 KJV)

Abram is the first one mentioned in the Bible that brought His tithes to God. Tithing is an ordinance of God in which we give the tenth of all what we receive from God. *This is the law of God and it represents our acknowledgment that all good things we received had come from God. This action of tithing represents our faith in God and our faithfulness toward Him.*

When God blessed Abram with a victory and he was able to recover the people of Lot along with the goods, he offered the tithes of his spoils. Bringing the tithes to God was Abram’s acknowledgment of God giving the plunder to him. *Giving our tithes is an act of expressing our faithfulness and trust in God that He is in our lives and He is the one who help us through all our struggles.*

Before Melchizedek king of Salem met Abram, the king of Sodom went out to meet him. *“17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.” (Genesis 14:17 KJV)* I teach the people about tithing their income, salary, and also any other bonuses or allowances they receive, and as the following: *Since Satan always comes to tempt God’s people to spend the money on other things before giving the tithes. Therefore, I instruct the people that once they receive their salary or their income, the first thing they should do is to take the tithes out and put it in an envelope, write their names and bring it to the church. Then they can spend on what they need. It is important that once we receive our earnings, we separate the tithes and bring it to His storehouse in the church.*

Giving the tithes is not giving to man but to God. Abram gave the tithes to Melchizedek, who was a type of Christ, and he was the priest of the Most High God, King of peace, and King of righteousness. *“3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”*

(Hebrews 7:3 KJV) *“And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.” (Hebrews 7:8 KJV)*

When Abram gave his tithes to Melchizedek, Levi also paid his tithes as we read here, *“9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him.” (Hebrews 7:9-10 KJV)* Therefore when we give our tithes, as if our children who are still not yet born are giving their tithes to God. Therefore we need to take the responsibility to teach and discipline our children, to be honest and to tithe their income correctly. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV)*

The tithes need to be collected by the pastors and the faithful workers of the church, and they need to be recorded and accounted. *“And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham.” (Hebrews 7:5 KJV)*

Why the pastors and the faithful workers of the church should collect the tithes? It is not only about honest people who need to collect and keep the money, but as well as to deal with the individual lives of the people. ** Before collecting the tithes, the church leaders should examine the individual lives of the people. We should not only collect the tithes, but we should examine the individual lives of the people, know their problems, the status of their finances, and other struggles that they are passing through. * People who live in sin, yet give their tithes will not be blessed by God unless they repent. The rule is that we should direct the people by expounding to them the truth, and counsel them to repent and come back to God. This will be the way to show that we love our brethren by facilitating their spiritual growth.*

** So there is a good work in giving the tithes and there is a good accompanying collecting the tithes. * Collection of the tithes comes after reaching out to the people and educating them in the Word of God and serving them and meeting their spiritual needs. If we fail to do that, we are not helping the people, we are not doing the good works of God well, and we are unworthy to receive the peoples’ tithes.*

If some people in the congregation are not able to give their tithes, the church should make every effort to reach them, and search their lives, find out why they are not able to give and help them to get back on their feet. I usually recommend the tithe to be put in an envelope mentioning the tithe giver’s name and the amount with the date of giving. There is a frequent question that I am asked by those who cannot understand why they need to write their names on the envelope, and they will use what Jesus said, *“1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:1-4 KJV)* Jesus said that about giving alms and not about giving tithes. Putting the tithes in an envelope and writing their names on it is a good policy so that those who are not yet giving their tithes can be approached for spiritual counseling. The Levites who were called to the office of the priesthood were

required to mention each person's name and the amount that person gave, ***“And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham.” (Hebrews 7:5 KJV)***

There are reasons for not giving the tithes and as the following:

- Unfaithfulness
- Ungratefulness
- Rebelliousness
- Bad stewardship
- Lack of faith and not trusting God
- Greed
- Worldliness and leisure activities
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of trust in the church

So we need to deal with these issues while we are doing the good work of God in collecting the tithe from the brethren who are not willing to bring their tithes to God.

My dear and beloved: Come now to the Lord in repentance renouncing your unfaithfulness and renounce your wrong doing by neglecting God and moving away from Him and from His church after He had blessed you. Repent of such sin and show once again your faithfulness to God and have fellowship with Him and His church and come to Him with love and thankfulness for all the good things that He did to you.

Come to the Lord and examine yourself and see if your life and your actions go along the true faith that you should have through Jesus Christ and His Word. Remember the times that God was good to you and gave you victory but you went away from God when you received all the good things from Him. Are you faithful to God? Are you bringing your tithes to the Lord? Repent from the sin of unfaithfulness and the sin of the lack of commitment toward God and the lack of tithing. Take the good example of father Abram and learn from his faithfulness.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me your ways and the good works that you prepared for me and ask me to do.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your unfaithfulness, your bad example, ungratefulness, rebelliousness, bad stewardship, lack of faith and not trusting God, your greed, your worldliness and your leisure activities, your lack of reading of God's Word, and your lack of trust in God's church. Renounce your yoke with friends and non believers. Renounce your lack of tithing and your non commitment to the church and to the fellowship with the brethren and to the ministry.

Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to the principle of tithing that I learned in this message. Lord I commit myself to tithe all my incomes and bring to the storehouse in your church.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to apply your Word and the instructions that we received in this message. Lord continue to be with them, and continue to give them victories over their enemies. Lord bless them, protect them, provide their needs so they will continue to serve you and do your will.

Lord help us as a church to continue apply the teaching that we had learned from you in this message and especially about tithing. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach your Word about tithing to our children and disciples, and to continue to examine the lives of the people whom we are reaching out and teaching them your Word. Lord protect us as we go forward, grant us victories against our enemies, so will continue to serve you and do your will in full. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Faith and Deeds Part 4. James 2:20-24. Genesis 14:17-20. Psalm 110:4. Hebrews 7:1-3, 5, 8-10. Luke 22:14-20. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Luke 17:11-19. Proverbs 22:6. Matthew 6:1-4.

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