

Faith and Deeds Part 7

“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 in this message to speak about the deeds that God wants us to do, and the faith that God wants us to keep as we are speaking about Abraham, and how his deeds went along his faith in God.

We had previously discussed how Abram had his fellowship with Melchizedek, and how he gave what is due for him toward God as we read here, ***“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. 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 14:17-20 KJV)***

After Abram had ended his fellowship with Melchizedek, and did what is due for him toward God, he moved to settle the affairs with the King of Sodom as we read here. ***“21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: 24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.” (Genesis 14:21-24 KJV)***

*** You need to learn that after every battle you need to come first to God and to fulfill all your obligations toward the Lord, then you move to settle other matters according to their priorities. * Why you ought to comply with such? Because, when you put God first then God Himself will be the one to give you the wisdom of how to handle the rest of the situations properly.**

“21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.” (Genesis 14:21 KJV) Here Abram was given the option by the King of Sodom to get the money and the goods and to give the people back to the King of Sodom. The people here were the people of Sodom and here the King of Sodom was asking to get them from Abram, and he was offering to Abram that he will take for himself all the goods that he took and recovered in the battle which were the goods of the people of Sodom that was taken by Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. He said that because Abram was the one who arranged the battle to retake back the captives from the invading kings. Abram used his confederates and the men that were born in his house as we read here, ***“13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite,***

brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram. 14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. 15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. 16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” (Genesis 14:13-16 KJV)

“22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,” (Genesis 14:22 KJV) Here Abram declared the principle that he belief in following God in a proper way. Abram clearly declared that he will follow such because he had promised God and made his covenant with Him by saying, ***“I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the possessor of heaven and earth.”*** Abram had great awe of God that he cannot accept anything from anyone but from God alone.

“23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:” (Genesis 14:23 KJV) Abram had made a covenant with God that from Him he will receive victories, successes and blessings. And with such victories and the blessings that he will receive from God he will not accept anything else not from God. So Abram said clearly to the King of Sodom that he will not accept any material things from him as if it came from the devil since it did not come from God. There are things will come from the devil; so Abram made a promise to God that he will not receive such from the devil. Abram declared to the King of Sodom and now in the presence of Melchizedek that even a shoe lace or a thread which are very cheap thing still he will not accept from him, so the King of Sodom will not be able to say that the blessings of Abram had come from him. Abram was very clear that he would not receive any blessing except from the Lord God the maker of Heaven and earth. Abram was fully trusting God that he will bless him and make him rich. *** In the same way let us make this commitment today that we will not receive anything not from the Lord God, so the devil and those who work with him will not be able to say that they had made us rich. * Be also aware and discerning that the devil also gives various material things and you need to reject such and get rid of all what you had taken from the devil.**

“24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.” (Genesis 14:24 KJV) Abram here declared that he would just receive what his three hundred and eighteen trained servants and his confederate, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre, ate while they were fighting and recovering, and their portion from the plunder, and the portion of the men that went with him, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre, the portion that belonged to them by the law of war. Abram did not take his right but let others with him take their rights and their portions while they were assisting him in recovering the men and the goods. We may ask, Why Abram did not take? Because Abram went to battle to recover Lot, and not to gain money and he achieved that and got satisfied. **In the same way, we need to know and see our goals and priorities clearly so we can focus to achieve the task entrusted to us and without confusion and deviation towards gaining material things.**

Now in relation to this Scripture: *“23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:” (Genesis 14:23 KJV)* we can speak more about the right and the wrong resource of money or income.

A. The right resources for money:

I. Hard work with our own hands: *“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28 KJV)* God has given each and every person, hands and feet as well as talents. So the admonition here is that each person should quit being lazy, stop stealing by taking advantage of others, find a job, and exercise and use his hands and talents to do what is useful so that he can spend on himself as well as to save and to share with others who are in needs. **Therefore, if you don’t have a job, now is the time to go and find a job and work with your hands using the talents that God gave you, so you will have income, then tithe your income, spend wisely, save what is remaining and keep some amount to help those who are in need.**

II. Save and don’t waste: Another right source of income is our savings. At certain times God gives us more because He wants us to save and not waste. Let this be our principle: *“The extra that we receive today is God’s provision for us for the future, so we need to save the extra.” ** **Avoid buying unnecessarily things. Avoid buying expensive things. Avoid spending money on eating in restaurants, on parties, on giving gifts and on unnecessary journeys. * Think to save and the importance of saving, so you can discipline yourself and stop unnecessary spending.**

“6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6: 6-8 KJV) God uses the ant to teach us to save and to store the excess that He gives us.

The art of saving that we learn from the example of the ant involves two main things:

- A. Gathering:** To particularly gather things rejected by others and assemble them together and also collect things left around you that will become useful one day.
- B. Storing:** To properly store them and place them in a proper place from where we can take later on when we need them.

III. Investment: Is to put our money in a project or certain work and out of it, we will receive income. Let us read part of Jesus’ parable: *“16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matthew 25:16-17, 20-21 KJV)* Here in this parable, Jesus spoke about the Master who entrusted to His servants’ certain number of talents. They invested it in a certain business and they brought the profit to the Master. This is the principle of investment. Investment is to use our money and not our effort or time. *** When we invest our money into a business, we need to make sure that there is no loophole to lose our**

principal amount, the capital. If the initial capital is lost or not secure, then this type of investment is not from God. * Some people or banks may ask us to invest in something. If we get them to sign the agreement that our capital will be untouched, then we can go ahead with the assurance that it is a blessing from God. But if there is the possibility of losing the capital, then we don’t go ahead. Unless our capital is secure, we mustn’t venture to invest.

IV. Interest: Another way to get extra money is to deposit our money in the bank and receive a certain percentage of interest. The Lord Jesus also recommended that *“27 Thou oughtiest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.” (Matthew 25:27 KJV)* Interest is when we put our money in the bank as a fixed deposit and get some profit. It is like an investment but with little profit. **If you have a good amount of money better to put it in a fixed deposit in a stable bank that will give you certain interest after a certain time.**

V. Inheritance: We may receive money, estates, and treasures from our fathers. *“House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.” (Proverbs 19:14 KJV)* And this is one of the ways that God blesses us. **So whatever you received from an inheritance had come from God and you need to use properly to do what God wants you to do.**

My dear and beloved: Now let us come to the Lord and let us allow the Holy Spirit to examine us and see if we are following the principles that we learned from Abram in what he did. Have you put God first? Do you fully trust God? Do you only receive from Him? Do you refuse to receive from the devil? Do you honor and follow the right resources of money to get your income?

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 explained to me your ways and the good works that you prepared for me to do. Lord thank you for opening my mind about the true resources for money that you placed before me to receive. Lord thank you for the example of the ant that I learned from it to gather and to store properly things that one day will be valuable to me.*

Now confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your greed, the love of money, and your covetousness. Renounce and return the things that you took previously from the devil. Repent of being not putting God first in your life. Renounce being a bad example in finances. Renounce your worldliness, laziness and taking advantage of others. Renounce your disobedience to God and your lack of trust on Him that He will give you and provide you all your needs. Renounce your lack of reading of God’s Word and lack of prayers. Renounce your bad stewardship and your non willingness to save and keeping aside for the future.

Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____ .

Lord I renounce and will get rid of the following things that I took from the devil _____ .

Lord I repent, forgive me that I did not put you first in the following situation

*Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message from the example of Abram who said, “ ... **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, “23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.”** Lord I commit myself that this will be my principle in life, that I will not take any even the small thing that did not come from you. Lord I commit myself to the principle of good stewardship, to work with my hands and not to take advantage of others, to tithe my income, to save and keep aside and to help those who are in need. Lord I commit myself to learn from the good example of the ant to gather and to store things properly that I can use them in the future. Lord I commit myself to put my saving in a bank deposit that I can receive from it additional amount of money. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do your work and the ministry 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 draw them near to you and to give them self-control and discernment that they will not be enticed to receive what had not come from you, so they will not be corrupted and no one will be able to say any unwanted words about them. Lord continue to give them wisdom and discernment so they can manage their lives well with good stewardships.

Lord help us as your church to continue apply the teaching that we had learned from you in this message and especially about the right resources of money that we need to teach your people, the church members and the workers, that everyone of them to be discerning to receive his blessings from you only. Lord lead us with your Holy Spirit to the works and the ministries that you wants us to achieve for you. Lord we trust you that you will continue protect us and to provide for us to continue to serve you. 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.

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