

God's Calling Requirements Part 64

Have The Right Faith

“1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. 3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. 4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. 5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. 7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” (Luke 17:1-10 KJV)

Our Lord Jesus Christ was discussing and speaking to His disciples and He mentioned to them important principles about faith and how they need to conduct themselves in the world. As we will read and study together the passage, we will find facts and truth that we need to know and apply in our lives that will perfect our faith.

1. Offences will come “It is impossible but that offences will come” (Luke 17:1 KJV): Trials or troubles will come, and even people will trouble us and sin against us. Whatever you will do to avoid or to protect yourself from troubles, problems, or offences, they will still come into your life. Offenses are evil things that we will be receiving from the people, both who are around us and who we serve.

2. You need to be obedient to God and to keep good testimony, “It is impossible but that offences will come” (Luke 17:1 KJV): In spite of all the offences against you, the Lord still needs you to be obedient to your calling and keep the good testimony, so that others will know and see Christ in you. You need to maintain the good example. You are accountable to God to keep the correct pattern of life even when you are passing through troubles. Remember that people are looking at you and watching you. If you respond negatively to the offenses by drawing away from serving God, or in reacting in a bad way against such offenses, then you become a bad example to others and will cause them to stumble and fall down. There are people around you who are young in faith and if they see you reacting adversely to offenses they might stumble because of you.

3. God shall deal with those who had caused offences: “but woe unto him, through whom they come! 2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.” (Luke 17:1-2 KJV): Vengeance belongs to God and He will be the one to deal with evil doers who sin against you. He will also deal justly with you if He sees you giving a bad example to others. You don't need to avenge and do wrong to those who bring offences on you because God will, and He needs to

be the one to deal with them and not you. (Remember, God can deal with your enemies in a much better way than you ever can!)

4. Take heed to yourselves, “Take heed to yourselves” (Luke 17:3 KJV): Watch yourself and avoid avenging the wrongs done to you and thus taking the place of God in dealing with evil doers. Watch yourself while you are passing through trials and be careful to keep your good testimony.

5. Be accountable to deal with sin, “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him” (Luke 17:3 KJV): You are accountable to face those who sin against you and rebuke them. Don't flatter those who do wrong, don't avoid facing them, and don't speak behind their backs either. You need to go and face them and speak directly to them and not to other people. God wants transparency in His church and no compromises; sin and sinners need to be dealt with.

6. Forgive those who repent, “and if he repent, forgive him.” (Luke 17:3 KJV): God wants us to forgive sinners and accept them after they repented. God really wants us to forgive those who repent, ***“4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” (Luke 17:4 KJV)*** Jesus here linked forgiveness with repentance. He did not link it with saying 'sorry.' Many come and say sorry, but they are not repenting. You should not refuse to forgive those who repented. What he meant with ***“seven times in a day”***, may be related to different sins, in which you need to forgive as they repent.

7. Be aware of what kind of faith you have, “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith” (Luke 17:5 KJV): After the apostles heard what the Lord is wanting from them to do in their lives, and to be accountable to deal with sin, and how transparency is so required and repentance must be needed to forgive, and their responsibility to forgive those who repent, then they asked the Lord, ***“Increase our faith.”*** It seems it was a heavy thing for them to do all that. To have a right faith, you need to keep a pattern, a good example, a good testimony, deal with sins, and rebuke sinners. Sin must be exposed, repentance is required before forgiveness, and forgiveness is needed toward those who repented. When they said to the Lord, ***“Increase our faith,”*** What they meant is that they cannot do what He asked them to do. If you are willing to obey, then your faith will rise up to the expectation of Jesus and you will be able to achieve what the Lord is asking from you to do.

Jesus in response to the question of the apostles to increase their faith, gave them another two parables to explain to them what is going on inside them and what are the defects that they are living with.

A- ***“6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” (Luke 17:6 KJV):*** Jesus here told that if they will have a faith in the same size of a mustard seed, which is a very small seed, they can tell to a sycamore tree which is big to be uprooted and to be planted in the sea, and it will obey. The size of faith will go along their willingness to obey. The question is this: Are they willing to obey Christ's instructions and do exactly what He wanted them to do? Are you willing to obey Christ's instructions and do exactly what He wanted you

to do? To many disciples, faith is miracles and wonders, but they themselves are not willing to do their parts by implementing Christ's instruction.

B- ***"7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."*** (Luke 17:7-10 KJV) In this story, Jesus was telling them that they are accountable to God to do Him service and to comply with the kind of life that He ordained for them to live. The Lord also instructed them how their faith will be corrected and increased by their willingness to accept suffering, hard work, and humiliation for the sake of Christ as He narrated to them the parable that speaks about the life of that particular servant. Many who will come to Christ would expect miracles and wonders to happen in their lives and that is true and correct. But in addition to that, there will be suffering and pain and that should be expected. Many expect and put in their minds that coming to Christ means privileges, authority, financial gains, leisure, and more and better facilities. The story of the servant that Jesus had put in front of His apostles had made things more clear to them and it will make it clearer to you this very day.

8. Expect to get involved in hard work of different kinds, "But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle" (Luke 17:7 KJV): The servant who was working in the field, farming, and caring for the animals, was having hard work, and two faculties was involved in his work. He was called to manage two things together, farming and caring for animals. Expect the same in your life and service to God. Your workplaces may ask you to do different tasks with the same amount of payment; still you need to bear as an act of obedience expressing your sound faith and humility toward God.

9. Expect to get involved in long hours work, "will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field" (Luke 17:7 KJV): This servant will start his day early morning, and when that servant was going home exhausted at sunset, there at home he would not rest, but needs to continue to work and prepare the food for his master, then stand and wait for his master to finish. **Therefore be patient and persevering in doing all your assignments. Humble people do not complain or grumble.**

10. Don't grumble but be thankful that you have work to work, strength to work, food to eat and place to lodge and sleep, "and afterward thou shalt eat and drink" (Luke 17:8 KJV): What we had read in that parable of Jesus, that servant had a work to work, a home to come back to, and food and drink to eat and get satisfied. Be thankful to all what you had been given, even in small things. Be thankful for the strength that God is giving to you to do all what is required of you. In addition to that, when you work your conscience will be clear with man and with God because you know that you had done your part well.

11. Don't put in your mind that the people would think about your hard work and offer you rest and food to eat, "will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?" (Luke 17:7 KJV): When the servant would come back home, he would not

put in his mind that his master would think how much he had worked hard and that he need rest and would offer him food and refreshment. Many who serve God would expect that the people whom they are serving will feel their pain and appreciate their hard work. That should be true, but in reality, men are selfish, and incline to abuse and take advantage of those servants of Christ. If you are determined to follow Christ and serve Him, then the aforementioned details are good policy and strategy to adopt. It is better that you will not expect, so when you will not find people to treat you well or think of you, then you will not be daunted, frustrated and discouraged.

12. Don't put in your mind appreciation, invitation, gratefulness and gratitude toward your good service and deeds, "9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not" (Luke 17:9 KJV): If you are still waiting for appreciation, invitations, reward, and gratitude from the people, think again, this will not happen, and such expectations will lead you to frustration and discouragement. In all what you do, do it for the Lord and not for man, and he will be the one to reward you, ***"23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*** (Colossians 3:23-24 KJV)

13. Review all what you need to do and be sure to do them all, "10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you," (Luke 17:10 KJV): No one else will do for you your assignment. Me and you are serving Christ, and from Him come salvation, eternal life, promises and rewards. Therefore we are accountable to Him and our eyes shall be on Him and on His commands to do them. Pride will make you look to get something from the people. But humility will make you see clearly that you are serving Christ and you do all what you are called to do in order to please Him. Prepare your mind and go on to do your assignment well.

14. Check yourself now and see what are the things that you did not do, so speedily accomplish them, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you" (Luke 17:10 KJV): Don't waste your time with arguments and self pity, that will not help you, but rather be wise and use the opportunity to perfect your responsibility toward Christ and His calling into your life. Continue to be diligent in serving Christ by serving Him and His people. Set an example to others in hard work, humility, and submission to God's will.

15. Let this statement be the motto of your life, "When you shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10 KJV): Not only do you say it but you also need to live it.

My dear and beloved: I pray that this Word of God had helped you, and will correct and increase your faith. The standard that the Word of God teaches us to adopt makes our journey to Heaven easier and with less pain, anger, grumbling, worries, unforgiveness, and self pity. Come back to your senses, and understand this way of life and service. Ask God forgiveness for your sins and if you are running in another standard, then you need to correct yourself and once again commit your life to continue to serve Him in the above described way as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord, I thank you for your word that makes things clear to me.*

Let us repent and renounce all our sins. Let us renounce discouragement, grumbling, anger, retaliation, unforgiveness, laziness, non willingness to persevere and suffer for Christ. Lord I ask you forgiveness for the following sins _____.

Lord, today I commit my life to live for you and serve you as your Word in this message taught me. Lord, please always remind me, help me, and sustain me to overcome, and provide my needs to continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my brethren who committed their lives to you. Lord help them to grow and enable them to express more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives, so people can see Jesus clearly in their lives and got attracted to you by their good testimony.

Lord bless us as a church and refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go to evangelize and reach the lost and make new disciples. Lord enable us to plant more Bible studies and more 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 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.

God's Calling Requirements Part 64. Have The Right Faith. Luke 17:1-10. Colossians 3:23-24.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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