

The Infilling Word

No New Weapon Needed

In this quarter's newsletter, we begin a couple of new series. Here at home, in our local congregation, God has been talking to us about the days ahead. One of the instructions He has given us is about being prepared. As I was meditating on these messages, the Lord said something to me about the content of these articles. This is what He told me: "Just as Satan cannot reach into his bag of tricks and pull out a new 'trick'; so also, I don't need to give you a new weapon to use against him. The same weapon that defeated the devil yesterday is the same weapon that defeats him today – My Word."

These messages come from God's instructions and reminders to us, His church. It is our prayer that you receive renewed insight into the power of the weapon of God's Word that makes us "more than conquerors. Though there is nothing new in these articles, we also hope you are reminded of His power to get the victory in any fight against the wiles of the devil. The announcement I would like to send this newsletter off with is this: Jesus is coming soon! God has given us everything that we could possibly need to fight the good fight of faith and be ready when Jesus comes – no matter when He comes.

An old hymn's chorus ended like this, "It may be morn, it may be night or noon. We know He's coming soon!"
Even so come Lord Jesus!

The Six "R's" of the New Covenant

While I was taking communion, not too long ago, I found myself engaged in contemplation of the many things that Jesus purchased, or made available to us, through His work before, during, and after His crucifixion. I was meditating on all that the blood of Jesus provided for us in the new covenant and was drawn to what I shall call the Six R's of the New Covenant: remission, redemption, righteousness, reconciliation, reinstatement, and resurrection.

Before we delve into the Six R's, let's look anew into the meaning of "covenant."

Now, I am not a scholar when it comes to the definitions and meanings of words in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, or of any other language except West Texan, small town West Texan at that! However, I do use a concordance and I do listen to Bible scholars – at least enough to get going in the correct direction. I also have learned to sit in the presence of the Holy Spirit long enough to get His guidance on how I am to understand and "use" the information I have. I don't know about you, but sometimes I can get so carried away with the scholarship of something, that I miss the practical application of the very thing I was looking into. Let's not do that. So, the working definition of "covenant" is that it is a binding agreement between at least two parties. To get more specific regarding the new covenant that we are discussing, it is a binding agreement that God made with man and secured it – or established it – with the precious blood of His only Begotten Son, Jesus the Christ. Even though it is a covenant between, or involving, two parties, it was conceived and undertaken by only one party – and that was God Himself. The only "part" we play is our acceptance of the covenant by our receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The wonderful thing about this new covenant is that it is better than the old covenant. John 3:16-18 is a wonderful introduction to this whole process of the New Covenant. We are told that it was the love of God for mankind that Jesus was sent in order that mankind not perish, or be destroyed. What was bringing about the destruction of mankind? Condemnation – condemnation because mankind loved darkness instead of light and their deeds were evil. Satan had been working on separating God and His creation, mankind, from the beginning. In West Texan words, we would say that God just finally got fed up, took action, and began His final assault on the kingdom of darkness: He sent Jesus!! Hallelujah!!!

Beginning in the book of Matthew, specifically at the Last Supper, Jesus declared, "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:27-28) The price was about to be paid to cover the debts that sin had brought upon mankind.

The book of Hebrews is phenomenal in its revelation of the new covenant and its many benefits. I encourage you to read the entire book of Hebrews and concentrate on the "story of the blood", but for now I will just mention a couple of chapters. In Chapter 9:11-22, the Word speaks of the greater value and the greater strength of the blood of Christ which secured the promise of eternal inheritance for all who will receive the precious gift of salvation. The precious blood of Jesus was much more valuable than the Old Testament blood of bulls and goats.

In Chapter 7:22, the Word declares that Jesus is our surety of this better covenant. He is the personal guarantee that the covenant purchased for us is not only established, but stronger and better. Chapter 8:6 continues to declare that it is a better covenant and that it is established on better promises than the old.

All in all, it is worth a little time and a little investigation to truly identify and lay hold on the full benefits of this awesome covenant that our Lord Jesus purchased for us with His own blood. So, let's begin a search of the Word and look into the purchasing power of the Blood of Jesus.

Join us in our next issue as we look into the first "R" of the New Covenant – Remission.

The Infilling Word

Rock-Solid Faith: Part One

**Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of
mine,
and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man,
which built his house upon a rock:
— Matthew 7:24**

There are many facets to every scripture – many revelations to each verse in the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is so wonderful. He “highlights” the particular word or meaning that He wants to reveal as we put our attention on scripture.

And, in the above words of Jesus, God highlighted the word “rock”.

Before we get into the depth of the revelation that the Spirit has for us, we must first identify or define exactly what the word “rock” means. Sometimes the word means an individual stone or a boulder that can be easily moved; however, in this instance the word represents a mass of rock that cannot be easily moved or manipulated. In this particular scripture, the word “rock” alludes to a type of sure foundation.

As I contemplated this scripture, the Lord brought to my mind an analogy that I would like to share. My wife is always calling concrete “cement.” What is the difference? – you might ask. The difference is that concrete is the finished product, while cement is what I call the “binder.” To make concrete you need rock/gravel, sand, cement, and water. Depending on usage, you might also need something called re-bar.

Using this analogy and the above scripture, one might say that The Word of God is the sure foundation that the house needs to be built on for it to withstand adverse weather conditions. But, that foundation is not just made up of the Word. It is the Word, plus your faith. Faith is the binder, just like cement is the binder for concrete. It is faith that empowers the rock and makes it strong and durable – something you can build on.

The Word of God is wonderful, but it won't hold up to the adversities of life if you don't have faith in the Word and if you don't operate in that faith. In other words, you will not have “concrete”; you will only have concrete rock or gravel. Let me give you an example.

We have an unpaved (caliche) driveway that had some potholes. Usually, we just fill those holes with some concrete rock. The problem with that is that with usage, vehicle's tires “kick” that rock out of the hole and we have to keep refilling it. This last time, however, I had some quick-set cement left over from a previous job. With the help of some friends, we filled the holes with concrete rock and then put the dry quick-set cement over the rock. That has held up. The tires on our vehicles don't throw the rock out of the holes anymore. The road “foundation” is set because we added the binding agent of cement. It is holding up to usage.

Just the rock alone would not hold; there had to be something else which bound the rock together and made it solid, or established. See, a lot of people know a lot of Bible, but they don't have any faith in it. There's a lot of religion out there, but there is no faith mixed with it.

There are a couple of other things that we need to add to our mixture of the Word and faith in order to stand upon a solid rock or to have rock-solid faith. What are these? Love, the Holy Spirit, and corresponding action.

Galatians 5:6 declares, “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” In other words, faith is activated or empowered by love. Now, we are not talking about “emotional” love. That type or level of love won't get you very far. Why? Because that type of love is based on feelings or flows out of the sensual/earthly nature. The type of love that empowers faith is that which flows from the spiritual nature.

The Word of God tells us that the “spiritual” level of love has been bestowed upon us by God, in order that we be called the sons of God. (1 John 3:1) Romans 5:5 declares that the love of God, or God's love, has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. And, last, but definitely not least, Galatians 5:22 states that the fruit of the Spirit has been made available to us and the first aspect named is – you guessed it – love.

At least two of the above scriptures identify the Holy Spirit as being very active in the “love” aspect of this process. However, there is so much more that the Holy Spirit does to make our foundation rock-solid faith. We will look at that further in Part 2.

The other thing we need to mix in is corresponding action. Without corresponding action, or works, our faith is dead. James 2:17 even identifies that it is dead, or ineffective, because faith without corresponding action is alone or by itself. What does it need to be effective? You got it. Faith needs to be mixed with the Word of God, love, the Holy Spirit, and corresponding action. Mix it all together and you end up with Rock-Solid Faith – a foundation that secures your life even through the midst of horrific storms.

Rock-solid faith doesn't come quickly nor does it come easily. You have to work at it. It requires study, commitment, and endurance. But, with the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God – you got this!

Join us next time and we will continue our study of rock-solid faith. We will look into our love walk, things that make our foundation weak, and how to make sure our foundation continues to be rock-solid. Until then, believe with your heart; speak with your mouth; and, rejoice in victory.

You Got This!

The Infilling Word

Hindrances to Faith: Rebellion



Have you ever had one of those times when it just seemed like things didn't go financially like they should – when it seemed like you took one step forward and five backward? Well, I have! In fact, I've been going through just such a time.

When I was growing up, I didn't go into debt for anything. Except for my giving to God, I had the reputation for squeezing every dime until it gave up a quarter. Now, you and I know that really didn't happen, but it identified a mindset against spending money without counting the cost.

Sometimes we get into situations and don't even know how we got there – the devil is very clever. It has now been many years since I "squeezed a dime" and I am just now seeing how he was able to seduce me into a bad place. You may be in the same position – a position where the enemy is defeating you or where you think you are going one step forward and five backward like I thought. I'm sure I am not alone, considering everything that is currently happening. The enemy has been waging campaigns against health, finances, relationships, and every other arena under his sphere of influence in the lives of believers.

In the past, I really didn't know how to stand against, much less fight back against the devil. Today, I have more knowledge and understanding of how to stand my ground and how to "fight" back. So, first I praised my God. I praised and worshipped Him for who He is. I praised and worshipped Him for the covenant that He had made for and with me. I praised and worshipped Him for the precious promises I found in His word. I think you probably get the picture – I started my attack on the enemy with praise and worship to my God. I exalted the Lord and Master of my life and clearly identified whose side I was on.

The next stage of my attack was to go to the Word of God, to look again at the scriptures that the Lord had given me about finances. It was in that exercise that I discovered where the devil had gotten an entry into my money. God had told me to do something and I did begin to do it; but, I then ended up finding excuses to not continue. Let me share what God revealed to me about the subtlety of the enemy.

God told me years ago to write every day – articles, books, etc. I was to write at least 30 minutes a day. I did so for a time and then reasons for not doing so arose, i.e. extra work at the church, interference by my daughter, demands at the counseling office, etc. All of these might have been legitimate demands on my time; however, they ended up being excuses and I stopped writing except occasionally. My "reasonings" were that it just wasn't that important. God had a different idea.

2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us that we have to cast down imaginations, or reasonings, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and take captive every perception or purpose unto the submission or compliance to Christ. The bottom line is that my "reasons" were the beginning of the problem. So, when I went before God about the current financial crisis and the issue of writing just kept coming before my mind, I realized that I had to get into compliance with the purpose of God.

God showed me how the issue caused me to fail financially by leading me to the scripture found in 1 John 3:19-22,

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

My heart was condemning me over the writing issue and I did not have the confidence that I needed to make the faith connection to have financial victory. The problem was not with God; it was with me!! I had to take responsibility and respond appropriately to the situation. I had to handle it at the cross.

The issue that got me in trouble was not the actual act of failing to write. The issue was rebellion, also known as transgression -- a willful resistance against God. One might say that is a tough or extreme judgment, but I am very clear that God was not wrong in His assessment. In James 4:17 we find this statement, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Every time I would attempt to go to God about finances, the writing issue would come to my attention. Sometimes I would write a little; sometimes I would write for a few days. However, I did not make the commitment write consistently. Another way to say that is this -- I did not make the commitment to God to live according to His instruction every day and do it consistently. Big difference! The commitment had to be to do the things God wanted me to do simply because He told me to do them -- not just to do them because they made sense to me, or because I liked doing them, or even because they would bring me financial success. The commitment had to be to obedience.

Please listen, I am not saying that I was disobedient in everything that God had instructed me to do. In fact, just the contrary. I have done, and continue to do, things that God has instructed me to do without any problem. Some of those things are difficult and "cost" me something to carry out. But this particular "sin" was costing me big time. This disobedience was costing me a particular place in the presence of God before the throne.

Obedience is what puts us in the position for faith to flourish and helps us take hold on the promises of God for provision, healing, deliverance – full salvation. God can get the things we need to us however He wants. Our obedience gives Him the freedom to overcome all the hindrances and obstacles that the enemy might use to keep His good from us. We limit God's grace by disobedience

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The Infilling Word

Continued Hindrances to Faith: Rebellion

The good news is that Jesus has already paid the price for our "transgression", or rebellion. He bore the price of our sin. Isaiah 53:5 clearly declares, "But he was wounded for our transgressions . . ." Verse 12 states that "he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." What a wonderful Savior is He!!!

He took our place and paid our debt.

The enemy was so sneaky, however! He took the opportunity that my "missing the mark" provided; he slipped in a stubborn/rebellious attitude to keep me disobedient; and he began robbing me of victory in my finances. Is it possible that the devil has found a way to do that to you as well? It might show up in your finances as well or it could be in other areas of salvation, i.e. healing, deliverance, peace, etc.

When you are presented with a specific issue that seems to come up often or when you begin to feel like you are not making any headway, check the issue out with God. He will guide you and reveal to you how Satan is getting into your business and stealing your victory. Be willing to tell the truth to yourself. That is probably one of the hardest things that we have to do, i.e. telling the truth about our sin. God already knows the truth and He has already made a way to make it right before Him.

Check out your confidence level when you go to pray. Are you able to go to Him with a heart of certainty, or is your heart condemning you? God is not mad at you; He just wants you to get it handled so that He can pour out His blessings upon you in the measure that He desires. He wants to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we (you) ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (you)." (Ephesians 3:20) So, give Him that opportunity by being obedient. Lay hold on your confidence and go boldly before His throne and obtain grace and mercy. He will not let you down. You can count on it!!

God is so faithful to us. He wants every hindrance to be removed in order that every promise and benefit He has provided might be made manifest in our lives. Work with Him on this. Let Him reveal the way to abundance of life. Remember Jesus' mission as He declared it in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Give God an opportunity to bestow all grace upon you that you might have "all sufficiency in all things" and that you might "be enriched in everything to all bountifulness." (2 Corinthians 9:8, 11) When you are willing to live your life following His plan and purpose - even when you don't see the reason - you can't help but flourish.

Set your confidence free by your obedience and "Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." (Psalms 35:27)

May "the blessing of the Lord" make you rich, with no sorrow added with it! (Proverbs 10:22)

Unto Him be all glory! Amen!

Living STABLE in UNSTABLE Times

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them,

I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine,

and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

--- Matthew 7:24-27

I have great news for you today. You can live stable in unstable times, even in today's world! God has made it possible -- providing instruction, guidance, assistance, and even provision -- to not only live stable, but to enjoy great rewards -- even earthly rewards. Just in case there is a doubt that is attempting to get your attention, let's look at a couple of Biblical examples of this truth.

In Genesis 26, we find the patriarch, Isaac, in a bit of trouble. There was a famine in the land; times were tough. God told Isaac to stay where he was and that He would be with him and bless him. So, Isaac stayed.

The next trouble was that the men of the land where Isaac was dwelling really liked Isaac's wife, Rebekah. Evidently, she was quite a woman. Isaac had lied and told them that she was his sister, trying to avoid getting killed for her sake. Anyway, the king caught him in the lie and things got tougher. Talk about unstable times!

Beginning in verse 12, we begin to see the reward for living stable in those unstable times. "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. 13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: 14 For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him." Now that's a reward!

Let's look at another example before we get down to some instructions. In the book of Daniel we find a very familiar story -- the three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Were these really their names? No. These young men had been taken into captivity by the king of Babylon and brought into the palace to be in service to the king. Therefore, they were given Babylonian names and, in reality, were put into slavery.

Daniel and these three young men made a decision early on in their captivity to honor the ways of God. Many times, God gave these men favor with their captors and rewarded them with positions of influence. However, even in the midst of high favor, the enemy put the three Hebrews in a bad position -- bow to serve and worship the king's gods or die in a fiery furnace. They chose to not bow and were thrown into the furnace.

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Continued Living Stable in Unstable Times

Now, I have to admit at this point I find it difficult to actually name the greatest reward that these three received. It was a great reward that the three came out of the fire, unscathed, without even the smell of smoke on their garments. But, I am inclined to say that the greatest reward that the three received was to have company on their great adventure into the fire. Can you imagine what it must have been like to walk in the midst of the fire with "the form of the fourth (is) like the Son of God?" Whooooee, I get tingles up and down my spine when I think of it!!!

Yet, that was not the end of their earthly reward. They ended up being promoted in the very government that had sentenced them to death. It seemed like the more opposition they encountered, the greater the victory and influence that God gave them. All of those things sound like reward to me, how about to you?

Okay now, let's get down to a few of the things that God has provided us in order that we might live stable in an unstable world. Jesus gave us a great direction in Matthew 7:15-29. In this sermon, Jesus finished with a description of life on planet earth, "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house." But, He also included how to stay stable in rough weather – hearing His words and doing them!

In the first scriptures of Matthew 7, Jesus goes into details about some of the difficulties we face, i.e. false prophets, workers of iniquity, people who profess to be followers of Christ yet don't. He also talks about things that help us keep stable, i.e. not judging others, not sharing your "pearls" with those who will not receive them, doing to others as we would have them do unto us, and how we would know who to steer clear of by their fruits. But, at the end, He finished with those two extremely important directions – hearing His words and doing them.

When we look at the two examples found in the Old Testament, we discover that Isaac, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had some things in common. They all received direction from God; they all believed the instructions they received; and they all did what God directed them to do. None of the directions were easy or without "cost". They all had to endure opposition – great opposition. They all had to stand firm in the belief of their success/victory in the face of extreme evidence to the contrary.

And, every one of them received a miracle! Their "house" stood stable in the midst of the storm because it was founded upon a rock – the rock of the Word.

I'm going to let you in on a little secret. The Word that they were founded upon was not just a written word. It was not just someone's good idea. It was not someone's wishful thinking. It was not a religious doctrine. No. It was the unchanging, eternal Word of the Almighty God.

One of my favorite statements that my husband has ever made from the pulpit is this: when the eternal promises of God meet the temporary circumstances of life, the temporary must bow. That is what happened to Isaac. That is what happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. God told Isaac to stay in the land that he was in and to plant. His reward: he received a 100-fold harvest. God told the Hebrew children that they were not to serve or worship other gods.

Their reward: they received deliverance from a fiery furnace.

But don't limit the blessings of God! Isaac ended up blessed beyond measure. So much so, that the king of the Philistines declared, "Go from us; for thou art much mightier than we." The three Hebrew children ended up so blessed that Nebuchadnezzar declared, "That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" and were promoted, or prospered.

When we hear the Word of God – the sayings of Jesus – believe and act on it, results follow. The difficulties, the problems, the challenges and the out-and-out attacks of the enemy can be withstood. We truly can live stable, as revealed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Times may seem tough. It may seem like every force of nature is against you. But, just as Jesus said, "But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) How do we overcome? Simple. Hear the sayings of Jesus, and do them. Make it your purpose to "be" as God would have you to be and "do" things the way God would have you to do them. When you do that, you are never alone; you are one with Christ. With Him, your victory is secure.

LIVE STABLE AND BE BLESSED!!