

Your Faith Fail Not

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Luke 22:31-32

What do you do when you get an evil report from the doctor – or lawyer – or employer? It is an interesting question and one that I would like to investigate today. Not too long ago, my husband and I were confronted with one of those evil reports. Like many evil reports, it was unexpected and dire – at Christmas time, no less -- not something that you want to have delivered to you or “find under the Christmas tree!”

Before I get into my “teaching” mode, I just want to say that I am sure others may be more accomplished at responding to “evil reports.” My husband and I have had many such reports through our more than 30 years of marriage. I believe that we are better at responding to Satan’s attacks today; *and*, I would not say that we are flawless in our handling of them. I am not holding us up as the perfect example of how to respond, but the one thing I can declare truthfully is that we are less likely to “react”. Instead, we do our best to “respond.”

I think that is the first advice I would give to anyone who receives a bad report – don’t “react.” What do I mean by that? What I mean is to not “go into action” immediately. You probably don’t have enough information to go into action and, therefore, you are not really prepared. Don’t panic, keep your mouth shut, and “listen” without painting pictures in your head about how awful it is. Now, I know that is easier said than done, but this is where you have to get in charge of your mind – throw up a wall against the thoughts and ideas that the enemy wants you to have.

Here is the thing: when you react before you know all the facts, you sometimes don’t hear the end of the situation and react inappropriately. Also, when you receive an evil report, you usually are not in a place where you can go immediately into prayer. Often the human “report-bringer” is not necessarily someone who will support you in your spiritual search for an appropriate response. Most of the time they will not appreciate you quoting scriptures, either! So – wait until you are prepared to speak what needs to be said.

I pointed out that you need to guard your mind, but I also want to point out that you need to guard your mouth. It will do no good for you to rail, scream, or curse the person who brings the evil report. No, it will only leave you feeling more anxious and more defeated. Reacting will only end up *intensifying* the “bad” feelings.

What you want to do is “respond.” You want to give an answer to the one who is behind the evil report. That would be Satan! It really is not people, places, or things; it is the devil using them as a channel for his evil works. The answer or response to the enemy’s attack can only be found in the Word of God. It doesn’t matter if the attack is physical, mental, emotional, financial, relating to business, concerning family relationships, etc. God’s word covers them all! -- And, you need time and focus to get the appropriate response for the situation.

It is in these times that we really learn to be responsible. Oh, that word “responsible” is so often misunderstood! “Responsible,” simply put, means that one has the ability to respond to

situations appropriately. If we are going to “respond” appropriately to the evil that Satan has sent our way, we are going to have to use the correct “response.” The correct response is based on the “key or solution” that addresses the enemy’s question or challenge. God is the only one who really knows what the true question or challenge is. It may look like one thing that is being challenged when it really is something else entirely.

Although the reality is that the enemy’s ultimate challenge or question is basically one thing, identified by these questions:

- * Who are you going to believe?
- * Is your faith going to be in the power of the enemy to wreck your life or is your faith going to be in the power of your God who “always” gives you the victory?
- * Whose report are you going to believe? God’s or the devil’s?
- * Whose side are you going to align yourself with?

You need God’s response to the challenge as the rock-solid foundation for your stand of faith. And, you also need to know for sure that God has your back by knowing His word concerning the issue!

Luke 22:31-32 describes a conversation that our Lord had with Peter right before Jesus went to the cross; and, it has been a comfort to me through many trials. The Lord told Peter that Satan had set his eyes on separating Peter from his faith and from his Lord. Whatever the situation(s) were that were presented to Peter, they were simply a means to an end. Satan wanted to separate Peter from the Lord. He wanted Peter to lose hope and faith – not only in Jesus and God, but also in himself. He wanted Peter to enter into doubt about who Jesus was and what Jesus had said. He wanted Peter to think that God, and the Lord, were defeated – that he was greater than God. Or, he wanted Peter to think that he had just been fooled into thinking Jesus was the Messiah. What an attack! And, haven’t you had to fight against some of the same type of thoughts?

One of the situations that Peter faced in the natural realm was the accusation that he was one that followed Jesus – one of His disciples. If he had just not panicked and if he had just kept his mouth shut, then he would not have denied the Lord. But, he let the devil get the best of him. Denying the Lord was not the appropriate response to the enemy’s challenge; but, don’t judge him too harshly. If a magnifying glass were applied to our life, would there be a situation where it could be said that we denied the Lord?

Anyway, the most wonderful thing had already happened! Jesus had already *prayed* for him! I don’t know about you, but that is about the most awesome and comforting “word” I’ve ever heard. Why? Because if Jesus prayed for Peter and He is not a respecter of persons, then He has already prayed for me as well. And, I believe and know that Jesus always gets His prayers answered! And, if He prayed for Peter and He has prayed for me, He has and will pray for you too!

One of the things I have discovered is this: if we are a Christian who loves God and are attending a solid church where the Word of God is preached, then the Lord has already sent us at least one “word” that addresses the evil report. If we are filled with the Holy Ghost and give Him even a little time to talk to us as we pray, He will have also given us a “word” individually. Yes – God does talk to us; and, He is *always* on the job! The question is, “Are we listening?” I am not

talking about physically “hearing” with our natural ears; I am talking about hearing with our spiritual ears.

There is absolutely not enough time in this article to give you all the points and instructions that I could give about dealing with the attacks of the enemy, but I can give you a hint. Before my husband and I received this last “evil report,” the Lord had already *impressed* me to study Luke 22:31-32. He had awakened me with an old song *on my heart* – one I had not heard or thought of in many, many years. I just could not get that song out of my head! The basic message behind the song was that God’s compassion and grace would lift heavy burdens if brought to Him. Imagine that! Two “heads-up” messages from the Lord with instructions on how to proceed.

We can stand in a position of great comfort and peace when we learn how to hear from God and how to respond, not react to Satan’s devices. Yes, the enemy will come. Yes, he desires to “sift (us) as wheat” – to separate us from our trust in God and His word. But, the Lord has given us a wonderful “edge on our opponent” in defeating his challenge. What is that “edge?” He has prayed for us that our faith fail not! And, our faith won’t fade, be deficient, be wanting, give out, disappoint, cease, or die because it is founded on the incorruptible Word of God and made available to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Our faith fail? No way! It is founded on Jesus and the “word of faith which we preach!” - that Jesus is the Lord, that God raised Him from the dead, and that we agree with His word. That is our answer to Satan’s challenge! And our answer to his question is, “Our faith stands strong; it is the victory that overcomes the world!”

A powerful way to answer or response to Satan’s challenge first thing begins with this declaration: “Jesus is our Savior and our Lord. If Satan has an accusation to bring against us to the court of Heaven, He has to deal with our attorney, our Advocate! We have to speak with our lawyer before we have anything to say.” Then, we need to go into “session” with the Holy Spirit acting in His capacity as our Paraclete, the One called alongside to help. Pray to the Father with the assurances found in Romans 8:26-28.

Many years ago, during one of the severe trials that my husband and I endured, the Lord gave my husband a song. We have sung this song many times and I would like to share just a bit of it with you. It is based on Ephesians 6:10 and the end of the chorus declares, “I’m strong in the Lord and the power of His might! Yes, I am! Yes, I am! I’m strong in the Lord and the power of His might! Yes, I am! Yes, I am! Yes, I am! Yes, I am!”

Now I’m talking to you! **You** – Be strong in the Lord. Be strong in the power of His might. Don’t attempt to be strong in yourself or in the power of your might. Remember – Jesus has prayed for you and He will continue to uphold you with His right hand of power. Tell the devil (even if you feel like you are calling things that be not as though they were) that your faith is strong and will get you the victory. Remind the enemy that he was defeated over 2000 years ago by the blood of the Lamb and that your word of testimony declares the Lord’s authority over you. With God on your side – who is he that he should think he could stand against you!

That’s correct: take a page out of the book of 1 Peter 5:6-9. Stand firmly against the devil in faith. As my husband says, “Stomp your feet and toss your curls.” The enemy is just roaring, trying to scare you. Take charge of your emotions, fear not, and declare your victory in Jesus by your faith. The devil will have to “run.”

Take a stand and believe that the Lord Jesus has prayed for you, that your faith will not fail. Remember the devil is already defeated and the Lord will reveal to you how to enforce the

enemy's defeat. Take courage; be of good cheer. Why? The Lord has overcome the world – Satan's system! And, if the Lord has overcome; then, we have as well because it is in Him that we live, move, and have our being. Hallelujah! We have the victory and our faith stands strong!

*Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,
and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

2 Corinthians 2:14

**Supporting Scriptures: Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9-18; Romans 8:26-28; 1 Peter 1:23;
Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 10:6-10; 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 2:1; John 16:7-11; Hebrews 1:3;
Romans 4:17; Revelation 12:10-11; Romans 8:31; James 4:7-8; John 16:33; Acts 17:28**

Job 1:6- -- vs 7 Put this with Peter's statement that the devil is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour

Considered = have you set your heart on bringing about a change -- Job is a man of integrity, righteous, reverences and respects God and withdraws from evil/sin

"all that Job *hath* is in the adversary's power, but not Job himself."

When everything was taken away from Job, he refused to sin/condemn God or ascribe the evil actions to God wrongly

The word of faith which we preach – Romans 10:6-8-17; Isa 53:1-12

Whose report are you going to believe -- “ “ “ “

Definitions:

Desired 1809 exaiteo -- from [<G1537>](#) (ek) and [<G154>](#) (aiteo); to *demand* (for trial)—

1537 = a primary preposition denoting *origin* (the point *whence* motion or action proceeds), *from*, *out* (of place, time or cause; literal or figurative; direct or remote)—

154 = to *ask* (in general)— the attitude of a suppliant, the petition of one who is lesser in position than he to whom the petition is made—

Sift 4617 -- from **sinion** (a *sieve*); to *riddle* (figurative)— to winnow or sift --- F&W to *separate* as in separating wheat from chaff; or to scatter

As 5613 – in the same manner

Prayed 1189 deomai -- middle of [<G1210>](#) (deo); to *beg* (as *binding oneself*), i.e. *petition* — "to desire, to long for," usually representing the word "need," is sometimes translated "beseech," —

That not 3363 -- *in order* (or *so*) *that not*— lest

Faith 4102 pistis -- from [<G3982>](#) (peitho); *persuasion*, i.e. *credence*; moral *conviction* (of *religious* truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially *reliance* upon Christ for salvation; abstract *constancy* in such profession; by extensive the system of religious (Gospel) *truth* itself— primarily, "firm persuasion," a conviction based upon hearing (akin to *peithō*, "to persuade"), is used in the NT always of "faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual."— The main elements in "faith" in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from "faith" in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, *pisteuō*; they are (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, (2) a personal surrender to Him, (3) a conduct inspired by such surrender. Prominence is given to one or other of these elements according to the context. All this stands in contrast to belief in its purely natural exercise, which consists of an opinion held in good "faith" without necessary reference to its proof.—

Fail 1587 ekleipo -- from <G1537> (ek) and <G3007> (leipo); to *omit*, i.e. (by implication) *cease* (*die*)— "to leave out" (*ek*, "out," *leipō*, "to leave"), used intransitively, means "to leave off, cease, fail;"

1537 = a primary preposition denoting *origin* (the point *whence* motion or action proceeds), *from*, *out* (of place, time or cause; literal or figurative; direct or remote)—

3007 = to *leave*, i.e. (intransitive or passive) to *fail* or *be absent*—

F&W fail – to turn out to be deficient or wanting, as in ability, quality, or effect; prove disappointing or unsuccessful; to miss doing or accomplishing something attempted, expected, requested, etc; to prove inadequate or wholly lacking in the necessary or expected amount, supply, yield, etc; fall short; give out; to decline in strength; waste away; weaken; fade away; die out; disappear; to prove of no help to; disappoint the expectations of; forsake; desert [comes from to deceive]

Converted 1994 epistrepho -- from <G1909> (epi) and <G4762> (strepho); to *revert* (literal, figurative or moral)— "to turn about, turn towards" —

Strengthen 4741 sterizo -- to *set fast*, i.e. (literal) to *turn resolutely* in a certain direction, or (figurative) to *confirm*— "to fix, make fast, to set" (from *sterix*, "a prop"), is used of "establishing" or "stablishing" (i.e., the confirmation) of persons—