

August 2015 Newsletter – Dealing With Emotions – Review

It is important to see that our emotions, as well as our lusts, are a part of the flesh nature, which has been corrupted due to Adam's sin against God. *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the **affections and lusts**.”* Galatians 5:24 Also we need to see that when we believed on Christ as our Savior we died to all that because we are now in union with Christ's death, burial and resurrection from the dead. *“Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified with him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* Romans 6:6

Paul goes on to tell us that our day to day victory over the flesh nature is through our knowledge of our new position in Christ. *“Likewise **reckon** ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:11 The word used here for **reckon** is the present middle indicative of *logizomai*, which was the thinking of an analyst, not out of one's feelings. The present tense tells us that this is to be our daily thinking on the matter, and in the middle voice it tells us that we will be benefited by the action, if we do it.

Included in this thinking one will have to take into consideration: our faith in Christ, our union with Christ, our being crucified with Christ, our resultant death, burial, resurrection with Christ, and our ascension into heaven with Christ! It also needs to have the consideration of the old man dying, the creation of a new man patterned after Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Paul taught that at the moment of our salvation God created a new man inside us, which is to be renewed daily through the metabolization of Bible Doctrine by faith under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”* 2 Corinthians 4:16 *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”* Colossians 3:10

He also taught that we have the power and responsibility not to let sin, which is in the flesh, to reign over us in life. *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”* Romans 6:12 And that the power to do this comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit. *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* Galatians 5:16,17

God has given to all Christians a spiritual life, which contains all spiritual phenomena, which are far superior to emotional phenomena. *“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* Galatians 5:23,24 This spiritual life is accessed **by living in the sphere of faith** under the ministry of the Holy Spirit. *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **in believing**, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* Romans 15:13

The Lord taught us that in this life we will have much pressure, but we are not to let it turn into stress in our souls, or fear. *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* John 14:27 *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33 The spiritual provision he has supplied to us, which will prevent stress and fear in our souls, is his **peace**.

We've been studying on the internal struggle between the flesh and the spirit within us and how when we're controlled by the flesh we have: stress in the soul, sin in the soul, the activation of our emotions, lusts and pleasures. But when we're controlled by the Holy Spirit, then love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness, temperance, longsuffering, faith and hope become the experiential dynamic in our souls.

We know in our regenerated souls what we want and what we choose to have; the peaceful life of the Spirit of God. But even though we choose time and again, we fail to have it so many times because it's the flesh that stops us dead in our tracks. Why? Because the flesh is a **tyrant!** But remember, **it is a tyrant that we have died to, so we don't have to obey it.**

One of the reasons why we fail to have joy and peace in our lives is because we are trying to get it by focusing on joy and peace, which are the results, and are not focusing on the means! It's like wanting an education without going to school; or wanting knowledge without studying Bible Doctrine; or wanting wisdom without applying Bible Doctrine to our situation; or wanting income without working for it.

We want God's peace in our souls, but wanting his peace is not how we get his peace! It's a beginning, but here's what God has to say, "Seek peace and earnestly pursue it". **Wanting** to have the experience is not the same as **having** the experience. The experience is the result, but we have to implement the means, if we want to have the experience. Our focus is not to be upon peace and joy, instead it is to be on God's promises! When we do, then the peace will come.

So how do we get this peace? The first thing we need to see is that comes about when the Holy Spirit is in control of our souls, or **fills our souls**. When the Spirit of God is in operation in our souls, then we will have the peace of God. So we ask the question again, what do I have to do to have God's peace? The answer is nothing! Just trust God. When we exercise faith in the promises of God, then in that sphere of faith in the Word, will we have God's peace.

In the sphere of the flesh's **lusts** there is no peace. In the sphere of the flesh's **emotions** there is no peace. But in the sphere of **faith**, then there is peace! "*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **in believing**, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*" Romans 15:13 "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **as you trust in him**, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" NIV But remember, the focus of our faith is not to be on faith – but on the Word of God!

So how do we prove that faith is there? **The nature of the deed is the proof, ipso facto;** the activity of faith is the proof of faith; faith exercised in the trial is the proof that faith exists. If we're looking at just a mental attitude, it would be difficult maybe even impossible to prove what one was thinking. But if there was an action involved, then we could see that action as the proof of faith. **The actions of those mentioned in Hebrews 11 is the proof of their faith!**

James, Hebrews and other places in the Bible bring out the aspect of the activity of faith. Peter brings out the idea of sufferings and trials, not only as a proof of faith, but also as the means of bringing this faith out, developing it, strengthening it and completing it. "*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*" 1 Peter 4:12 Faith acts. Now activity and faith are not the same thing, but whenever and wherever faith exists it eventually acts. It may believe and pray; it may believe and confess sins; it may believe and make a decision, but activity will always proceed from faith.

Every place in the Bible where you find faith you will find an activity connected to that faith. Faith prompted that woman to go to the Lord to be healed; faith motivated her to touch the hem of his garment. Faith prompts the unbeliever to call out to Christ for salvation. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* Romans 10:13 When David was surrounded by the enemy his faith motivated him to call out to God for help. *“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”* Psalms 34:4 *“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”* Psalms 34:6

Faith motivated **Abel** to offer the proper sacrifice to God. Faith motivated **Enoch** to live a doctrinal life to please God. Faith motivated **Noah** to build an ark to save his family. Faith motivated **Abraham** to the activity of leaving Ur to go down into the promised land. By Faith **Jacob** blessed Joseph. By faith **Joseph** gave instructions about his bones after death. By faith **Moses' parents** hid him for three months. By faith **Moses** rejected his ties with Egypt and chose to be identified with God's people. By faith **Moses** left Egypt. By faith **Moses** kept the Passover. By faith the **people** passed through the Red Sea. By faith the walls of **Jericho** fell down. By faith **Rachel** welcomed the spies. By faith **believers conquered** kingdoms, **administered** justice and **gained** what was promised. By faith they shut the mouths of **lions**, quenched the fury of the **flames**, escaped the edge of the **sword** (death in the time of war). By faith their weakness was turned into **strength**; they became **powerful** in battle and **routed** foreign armies.

So what's the point? The point is that faith acts; it has activity. Wherever there is faith in God's Word, then that faith will motivate that believer to some form of activity. And it will not only motivate that believer to an activity it will support him in that activity. For when we act in faith, then we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit!

James is so strong on this subject that he says faith without works (activity) is dead. *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* James 2:17 *“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”* James 2:20 The believer who says that he has faith, but there is no activity coming from that faith is just deceiving himself. *“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”* James 2:18

Now Biblical faith will motivate a believer to activity, but activity can also be an opportunity for us to exercise faith! Now this activity can be imposed upon us not of our own will, such as, a trial, or suffering, or responsibility, but it can also be there because of our own choice, such as, a project we have undertaken, or an idea we would like to see come to fruition.

Many believers look at their jobs, professions, or business enterprises as simply a way to make money, which can take the heart out of the matter making them into drudgery for us. Where, instead, we should look at them as an opportunity to claim the promises of God and live by faith! This becomes even more important to us when we **realize that the spiritual life of love, joy, peace, etc., is activated in us in the sphere of faith!**

What this tells us is that money is not to be the consideration when we are seeking one's life goals and careers, rather it is to be a place where we can serve God! Sadly money is the motivator of most Christians today. Our field of service is not the issue, whether in business, politics, medicine, labor, or the ministry, nor is financial compensation the issue. (God promised to provide our needs). Rather is this the field of service that God wants me in and is this a place where I can apply Bible Doctrine and live by faith?

We know the story of Daniel in the lion's den and how God delivered him, but most don't know he was delivered because he trusted God! Daniel exercised faith in this most certain death that was before him. *“Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.” Daniel 6:23*

The word for **believed** here is the Chaldean *aphel* stem of *aman*, which was the equivalent of the Hebrew *hiphil* stem, which is **causative** showing that something caused this action of believing. *Aman* meant to lean upon, to trust against, to totally trust the object which one is leaning to hold you up. And when used in the *hiphil* stem it meant that Daniel was caused, because of the dire situation, to totally trust that God would protect him from the lions.

That is **faith** used in a passive sense for there was nothing he could do about it in his own strength. But we have an **active use of faith** when David took off after a lion, who had taken one of his sheep. *“And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.” 1 Samuel 17:34,35*

And **Benaiah**, who killed a lion in a pit. *“Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lionlike men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day.” 1 Kings 11:22* And **Samson**, who slew the lion that attacked him. *“Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.” Judges 14:5,6*

In the flesh the average person will be paralyzed by the roar of a lion, but here we have examples of how the king of the jungle was and can be subdued by faith, for it is in that sphere of faith that the believer will be strengthened by God to do what was impossible in the flesh. And the mightiest lion that believers will ever face is the roaring of Satan. But Paul said that he was delivered from the lion's mouth of Satan by faith. *“Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the **mouth of the lion.**” 2 Timothy 4:17* And Peter tells us that faith in the Word will deliver us from Satan. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a **roaring lion**, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*

By faith Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego quenched the **fury** of the flame; the fury, *dunamis*, referred to the power of the fire, that is, its **heat!** *“Quenched the **violence** of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.” Hebrews 11:34* The fire still burned, intensely so, but the heat didn't bother them. It was the faith of those three men that enabled them to triumph over a natural phenomenon and commune with Christ in the sphere of faith in the sphere of a fiery trial! **And if the exercise of their faith will enable them to overcome their fiery trial, it will enable us to overcome our fiery trial!**

Faith enabled God's children to “**escape the edge of the sword**”. The word for **sword** here is *machairos* and it refers to a military situation. The word for **escape** is *pheugo* and it meant to escape, to flee, to avoid a threatening situation, to flee from unjust prosecution, or to flee from a military threat! **This may be of great importance to us in the upcoming days.**

To **escape** also had the idea that death or capture was imminent, either from the military or the “law” and the believers were able to successfully escape. It would also refer to the believer in the military, or a combat situation, who is able to escape or avoid death or capture, either by defeating the enemy, retreating from it, or by evasion.

Escape would also refer to civilians who are able to defend themselves against an invading army, or to be able to evade or escape it, or the same thing from a “militarized” police force. It would speak of being able to avoid a trap set for you; being able to successfully flee from a threatening situation, avoid threatening situations, escape from situations eluding capture or death.

Out of weakness were made strong refers to going **from**, *apo*, personal weakness in one or more areas to being strong in those areas in a short period of time. This would be impossible in the natural world because a thing cannot be more than it is. But becoming strong in this passage is found in the passive voice showing us that the believer receives this strength. And who does he receive it from? Jesus Christ! “*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*” 2 Corinthians 12:9a “*For when I am weak, then am I strong.*” 2 Corinthians 12:10b

And in Philippians 4:13 Paul states, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” The word for I can do is *ischuo*, which meant that by faith one had the strength and everything else that he needed to prevail victoriously over the situation he was in. He was not only able to endure the situation, but to be able to come out through the other side triumphantly. And he was able to do this because he was in-strengthened (endunamoo) by the power of Jesus Christ!

The Bible is a record of God's people, whom Christ strengthened to perform an activity, in spite of and in the middle of their personal weaknesses: Samson, David, Abraham and Sarah are but a few. But he did this in the sphere of their faith, for when our faith is exercised it now opens the door for Christ to perform out of his infinite strength. **And if he did it for them, he'll do it for us today!**

“*Who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies*”, or, “*waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*” Now to begin with a battle is about the most serious of a situation you can get into because if you lost – you died! The word for **powerful**, or valiant as we have in the KJV is *ischuros* again and it meant to possess the sufficiency of whatever it is that you need to defeat the enemy and come out the other side in victory.

But here we have the word *ginomai* used for **became**; they **became** valiant or powerful, which signified a change of condition, which tells us that they weren't prevailing, but something happened where they now became strong enough to prevail over the enemy. What changed the situation? You're out on the battlefield, or in the forests and the enemy is defeating you. But now the tide has turned and you're beating the enemy! What changed? **What changed is that the believer started exercising faith and when he did he became strengthened by Jesus Christ to the place that he now was prevailing over the enemy to the place that an entire army could was routed and sent packing!!** “*Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*” Hebrews 11:35-40

All of these are examples of situations where God's people have exercised faith. It was their faith in the Lord that enabled them to prevail over overwhelming odds, to endure impossible situations and to come out the other side victoriously. You see, when we exercise faith in the Lord all the merits and strength go to the object of our faith, which is the Lord. But this does not refer to just situations we are in, but also things going on in our souls.

For the soul to be stabilized the faith rest dynamic is not to be “hit and miss”, but a constant daily practice. When we trust in God through his Word, then God, through the spiritual life dynamic of faith in his Word, stabilizes our souls and keeps us in a state of peace. A state of peace stabilizes the soul, and a stabilized soul is one that lives in a state of peace. “*Thou wilt keep him in perfect **peace**, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*” Isaiah 26:3

Have we ever thought about what it is like for the angels in heaven, these celestial beings? They don't all get to be in the presence of God everyday listening to his Word. In fact, they are convened at different times to hear the Word of the Lord. So what do they do now as they go back to the farthest reaches of the universe far away from the actual presence of God? They have his Words resounding in their souls; they have to believe his Word like we do. So whether it's them at the extremities of the universe, or us here on earth; we are to believe *Yahweh's* Words.

The word for **trust** is *batach* and it describes the faith rest dynamic of leaning, or depending on the Lord, which results in our souls having a sense of security and peace. *Batach* is found here in the qal participle and describes an action that is continually practiced daily as a way of life. The believer is constantly leaning on the Lord each day of his life and as the result his soul exists in a state of **peace**.

The word for *whose mind is **stayed** on thee* is *samak*, which is also found in the qal participle, which tells us that we have to have our eyes constantly on the Lord each day of our lives, our daily practice, and we do this by focusing on God's Word each day. *Samak* had the idea of a base or support; it was used for something that one can lean on for support or stability. It can also be used of the one who grabs your hand when falling to protect you. It can also be used of one who is holding your hand to prevent you from falling.

The word for **mind** here is *yatsar*, but it looked kind of at the totality of man with all its individual parts. God is the one who forms; the verb is to form; and the noun is what he has formed. We have God as being the potter and man put as being the clay in Isaiah 29:16, “*Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed, (yatsar – formed or made), say of him that framed it, (yatsar – formed or made), He had no understanding?*”

So our passage gets more into the idea of the whole person, the entire soul being directed at God through occupation with his Word, but the point of contact for doing this is through the mind. And if we do this, then our mind will be stabilized and peaceful. In the NT it looks at the new man that God created in every believer in Christ.

We could divide this verse into two parts. The first one says, “*Thou wilt keep him in perfect **peace**, whose mind is stayed on thee:* The second part of the verse could be put as a reply to the question **how?** To which the answer would be, “*because he is **trusting** in thee*”. **This tells us that peace in the soul comes to us as the result of trusting in the Lord and his Word.**