

## June 2020 Newsletter

interrupted, to be put in jail, was indeed a failure. So now, Paul stands at a crossroads in his life. What is he going to do?

Virtually all adults know what failure is. Not just making some mistake, but a real failure, where you have blown it, and it's your fault! Blown a business deal; failed at your marriage, (of course it's always the other person's fault); failed as a parent; failed school; lost a career opportunity, etc.. Not making a mistake, for we all make mistakes in these areas, but where the things that one has undertaken does not go on to it's successful end, but ends in failure. That's what failure is.

**And how many of us give up after a failure?** How many go into feeling guilty? Ashamed? Developing a guilt complex? A failure index? How many give up trying, or not wanting to go on? Settling for something else? How many start to develop a negative self-image? How many consider themselves a failure, instead of objectively realizing that they have only failed at something, nothing more, nothing less? Having failed doesn't mean that one is a failure, unless he allows his failure to be the justification for a life of failure.

Paul failed, and he failed big time. But he didn't allow that failure destroy him with a guilt complex, or a failure index, nor did he allow his soul to be victimized by legalists over the matter; and, **he did not let his failure keep him from moving forward in the plan of God for his life**; even though his body was chained to a guard in his room.

Paul said in Philippians 3:8, *dioko de*, **But I press on**. *Dioko* was to pursue after something, a goal, or something else. He's sitting there in his room and saying in effect, "My past life as a Pharisee all came to nothing. I could have been a hot-shot attorney! But that's all dung to me anyway. Ah, but Christ. I want to know him. Be like him! How did I end up here? That's all been dealt with. Now? I'm pressing on to take hold of what Christ has taken hold of me for; the prize of the upward call: salvation, perfection, maturity, service, prosperity, rewards, glorification of the true God." *Dioko* is in the simple present active indicative, which tells it all. **First of all**, the indicative mood tells us that this was the present reality in Paul's life now. He had failed in the past, but this is now. Now he's moving forward in the plan of God. **Secondly**, the present tense tells us that this was a continuing thing. And the active voice tells us that Paul had made a personal decision in the matter; he chose to press on in the plan of God for his life.

How many believers on the other hand haven't done that? They failed somewhere along the line, or felt that someone failed them: God, their parents, their Pastor, a spouse; and now they don't want to go on in the things of the Lord any more. Maybe they reacted to the whole thing out of bitterness and anger. Or maybe they felt ashamed over their area of failure; so they decided they didn't want to go on in the Christian life: in grace, faith and truth. But Paul didn't! Paul failed, but he wasn't going to let that stop him. And here he says, **I press on**. And the great thing about the active voice, is that **it is the voice of choice!** Paul chose to go on towards the goal set for him by Christ.

**And we can too!** There is nor reason why we cannot go on in the things of the Lord, in God 's plan for our life, even to greater heights, in spite of the fact that we have miserably failed. It's all of grace! **But there were two things that Paul had to continually apply in his life as a daily practice to do this:** 1) he had to forget the things that lay behind; 2) and he had to strain forward to what lie ahead.

To **forget** is *epilanthanomai*, and is the **intensive use of forgetting**; showing that there is some difficulty in this matter of forgetting the past. Difficulties, failures, hurts, disappointments, grief, dashed hopes, unrealized goals and dreams, failed lives and marriages, all lie in the past; and that's where they are to be left! And because they are always trying to creep back into our minds to remind us, (or someone else is doing it), we have to apply ourselves at forgetting them. In the present participle, it tells us that we have to learn to start doing this as a way of life. We'll have to practice doing it over and over everyday. And in the middle voice, it's doubly good news. **One**, because it is a choice, it means that **we have a choice in the matter**. We do not have to be ruled by our past mistakes and failures! They do not have to rule, control, influence, or destroy our lives, because we do have a choice! **We can forget them!** But remember also, we have to make that choice to forget them. The **second thing** about the middle voice, is that it tells us that **the subject is personally benefited by the exercise of the action of forgetting**. The past is the past, failures and all. And for the believer who forgets the past, and does so continually as a way of life, will be personally benefited by doing so. And it needs to be emphasized over and over, this is an action that the believer is to adopt as a way of life, as a daily practice, sometimes hourly; and that sometimes it will be an intensive concept. He has to do it as a practice to be successful at it.

**The second thing that Paul had to continual practice as a way of life was reaching for ward to what lie ahead for him in God's plan for his life.** *Epekteino* means to stretch forward, to strain, to put forth all one's energies in reaching forward towards a goal, as the runner does in straining forward to reach the finish line, where he would be awarded the victor's prize. And *epekteino* too is in the present middle participle showing that **it too must be practiced daily as a way of life - no exceptions!** Both have to be practiced daily. And the middle voice **brings out the believer's volitional responsibility** in the matter, and the fact that the believer is not benefited by doing them, **but by practicing them!** The actions of these two verbs can not be emphasized enough; for they are the key to success in life and the fulfilling of God's eternal purpose for our lives here on earth! This is so important to remember - everyone fails!! But the key to getting past failure is forgetting the past and stretching forward to what awaits us in the plan of God.

But the grammar of these two words also has to be stressed as well. Both are in the present participle showing that **the believer has to adopt and practice these concepts as a day in, day out practice in their life**. Sometimes a hundred times a day, if need be, until the believer gets to the place that it is an automatic practice. But the voice is also just as equally important. The voice tells us of the believer's volitional responsibility in the matter to do them. If it were in the passive voice, it would tell us that he would be receiving them from someone else, usually God. But in the active, or middle voice, he has to apply the action. The active voice is the **voice of choice**. The passive voice is the **voice of grace**. The middle voice is the **voice of benefit**; we are blessed by grace, when we make the right choices.

This brings us around to the volitional responsibility that each believer has in this matter of his life and walk on earth before God. We have the right and responsibility to make certain choices, and to live with the consequences, whether good or bad. The middle voice **tells us that the consequences are always good, when we do what God tells us to do.**

In our past, we were subjected to many things that hurt us; some of our own doing, some from other people, things that scarred our souls. And this scar tissue, that many of us still carry, (and remember, scar tissue can be from a recent hurt, or one from childhood), holds us back in our pasts; often in fearful, defeated thinking. Every time we want to move forward in life, in the plan of God to what God has in store for us this old scar tissue creeps back into the main stream of consciousness to hurt us, to hold us back. So there we stay, frozen, unable to move forward to what God has for us.

But the good news is, that maybe we didn't have a choice about what happened to us in the past, **but we have a choice now!** The past is over. It's done. It no longer exists. But the memories do. And we do have a choice as to whether we will allow ourselves to keep remembering the pasts and all its hurts, failures and disappointments, or if we will forget them! And we do have this choice. We do not have to let the hurts, failures and disappointment of the past rule or destroy our lives in the present! We can forget them. **And by forgetting them, we take away their power to control us!** How do we let go of the past? By letting it all go! By forgiving everyone who has ever hurt us! It's all done. It's all water under the bridge. It's all under the blood of Christ. Each new day is just that, a new day with Christ, and his grace is never ending. *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

And we must always be oriented to the grace and plan of God; always looking forward to the future that God has for us. God has a wonderful plan for our lives and he wants us to grab hold of everything that he has for us. (That's why he grabbed hold of us). And this is the view of faith that the believer is to have towards today and the tomorrow's to come, to be reaching forward to those things, while he is forgetting the things of the past. This, with doctrine, is the key to the believer's success in the Christian life.

As believers, we have to keep moving forward in life, and to do this, **we have to have a realistic goal; an object for our faith; one that gives us hope.** But what is it to be? All unbelievers, and too many believers in America, make that goal the "American dream": a new house, a new car, new furniture, a trip to the Bahamas, falling in love and getting married, having a family, career advancement, more money, more things, the things that one desires (lusts after), personal goals and development, community involvement, or just to receive individual blessings from God along the line of the things that one desires to have. But what if these things never come true? What if you will never be rich, or well off? What if you will never have the comfort and security, or the things that you would like to have? What if you will never find the person of your dreams, get married and have the family that you want? What if you come to the place in your own life, where you can objectively see that there are no more goals for you to gain, as with Job, or Jeremiah the prophet? Now what do you do? You still have to have some goal, some desire, some object of faith for you to move forward towards, (faith motivates towards the object of faith), but now there is no object! **Well, there is one object for faith that is still there.** It is the main object, and has been there all along. (We just don't see it, because we're taken up with our own desires and plans). **That object is the personal perfection of the believer in Christ,** the goal of going on to perfection, completion - maturity.

We know that God has many things to give us, many things that he wants to do for us in his grace along the way, but as time and the years go by, we lose sight of them; we think that they are no more; or are not as interested in them, as we once were, especially if we've been subjected to a series of crushing trials and disappointments. Our desires seem to disappear along the way. These things that we go through in life sometimes demoralize us, discourage us; and sometimes cause a certain mind set to set in. Not one of emotional despair, although that happens, but one of an objective conclusion of the mind, that there is really nothing, no real thing, no real goal of blessing to be going towards in the believer's life. Job stated this mind-set well when he said, *"My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart."* [Job 17:11](#). Once he had concluded that it was all over for him, he knew that there was nothing left for him in the future. He said, *"What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient?"* [Job 6:11](#). The severity and length of the trial, and the loss in so many areas had caused him to lose hope towards the future. *"As water wears away stones and torrents wash away the soil, so you destroy man's hope."* [Job 14:19](#). And many Christians have been found in similar situations today. Sometimes as the result of being in a lengthy trial, through no

fault of their own, sometimes as the result of being away from the Lord in the World system, trying to gain all that the world has to offer, only to have it their world fall apart.

So whatever the reason the believer is now at this point in his life, where he has no hope for the future; his plans are shattered, even the desires of his heart; and he has concluded that it is all over for him too. And it may be true. It may be that everything that he had planned and worked for will never be! And it may be true that he will never have the desires of his heart. Which, often, are actually scar-tissue desires. Now what does he do? He needs to keep moving forward in life; and that's moving forward, not just moving. **Most people on earth are moving, but they are not moving forward in the plan and will of God.** To do this, the believer has to see that there still is a goal for him. In fact, it is the most important goal of all, and that's his personal maturity as a believer. This will give him motivating faith; it will get him moving forward again.

I know for a lot of Christians, this is not a very exciting prospect. They want love, a new car, money, or some emotional, or material thing. But there does come a time in most believer's lives, when they will be all alone and have no one but Christ; and there they will have only one reason to live, and that is Christ. As Paul wrote, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* Philippians 1:21. And there will also come a time, when there is only one discernible goal for the Christian to be advancing towards, (although there may be others), and that is the goal of personal maturity, or perfection.

Paul was in prison. He did not know how long he was going to be there, or if he would even live. He had failed; the life and ministry that he knew had come to an end; but he had a discernible goal to be moving towards in faith; and that was the goal of maturity, of becoming like Christ. By the way, he did get out of prison later on and went on to have a mature, productive and fulfilling life. **But what was the goal that he had set his sights on while he was in prison?** It was on personal perfection through faith and doctrine. This was what Paul was reaching forward to each day, while he was forgetting the past. And this is what we are to do today as believers. It needs to be done by all believers in their lives, but it is especially needed, when one has suffered: crushing setbacks, disappointments, severe trials, the loss of all things, personal failures, the destruction of dreams, and in times of national apostasy, or national judgment.

The average society, and most certainly ours, is driven by covetousness, the desire to have more things, material or emotional. These are the things that people live their lives for; basically, it's what they live for! But what happens when one falls out of the main stream? What happens if they fail to keep up with the Jones'? What happens if they lose it all? What happens if they will never get it back? The house, car, money, things? What happens if the economy collapses and they can't keep what they have worked so hard to get? Or is swept away in natural disaster: earthquakes, floods, fire, etc.? **Now what do they do?**

**People have to have hope.** They have to have a reason to keep on going. Most people, after suffering the loss of their things, will go on out and try to get them all over again. This is their hope, the eventual gratification of their desires. In other words, self-gratification is their goal in life; the hope they are living for, and their motivation for life. But is this to be the hope for believers? No! **The hope of believers is to be personal perfection in Christ.** It was for Paul, and it is to be for us. And this is the one thing that cannot be taken away from us. The one thing that is always there every morning that we wake up; and it is an attainable goal.

**When people are driven for self-gratification as their goal in life; they usually end up frustrated, because they rarely get all that they want.** This also leads to arguments in the home, because when

one is not getting his way, or what he wants, he gets frustrated and angry. In fact, this is one of the main causes for the arguments between the husband and the wife, and the children and their parents. But when believers put aside their lusts and desires, and their own selfish goals in life, and have maturity as their goal, they not only eliminate the frustration factor but also have something to look forward to each day, that can't be taken away from them. **Looking forward to doctrine each day gives us hope!**

When one has lost all, or so many of the things in life that he wanted, he can get pretty discouraged about the whole thing; and not be really looking forward to anything at all. He just shuffles along in life. **But when he sees that there is still one thing left for him, and there may be other things for him from God, then he knows that he has a hope and a future. He has something that he can put his faith in gear towards; something that he has to look forward to each day and be moving towards it.** So faith gives the believer momentum in life. And the believer has something to put his faith in, an object of faith to be moving towards, even if he feels that there is nothing else left for him on earth, and that is his personal maturity.

Today is today. The past is gone; and there is only today, maybe tomorrow. But what does the future hold? **Who knows what awaits us in the future?** And this is what this aspect of faith is all about, of having faith, or hope towards the unknown, unseen future. So, as we live today, in this day; and think about tomorrow and the many tomorrow's to come in the future, **we see that we need to develop the mental attitude of faith towards the future.**

**And as faith must have an object, the object of our faith is that God will be there in the future with us;** with his marvelous plan, his wonderful grace, his perfect provisions and his mighty power, so that we will not have to face the future alone. And this is especially important for those believers who feel like they are all alone in the world. And another object of our faith concerning the future is that we will be continually receiving God's gifts of grace to bless us. This gives us something to look forward to, something to live for, and something to keep us moving forward in life, all in addition to attaining personal perfection. But all these things, and more, that give us faith and forward momentum in life, and a positive outlook towards the future, **probably the most comforting thought is that God will be there with us in the future!**

Remember that the unbeliever looks forward to the future with the idea of: accomplishing goals, attaining things and gratifying their desires; this is what drives them. **But the believer has God!** Even though he may not have things; he has God! So he can live in contentment today and have no fear towards tomorrow, because his God will be with him to comfort him, protect him, have fellowship with him, provide for him, etc., because he is the object of God's great love and grace. This is the idea of Hebrews 13:5,6, *“Let your way of life be free from the love of money being content with such things that you have, for he himself has said, ‘I will never leave you, nor forsake you’. So we say with confidence the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”*

**For the believer, his objective hope concerning the future does not consist of what the future holds for him, but who holds the future for him!** Because of this he is able to have hope, a confident mental attitude towards tomorrow. As we had seen about Job, his outlook towards the future was very bleak, *“What strength, that I should hope; what prospects that I should be patient”; “You destroy man's hope”; “My plans are shattered, so are the desires of my heart”; “There should be pity for the one who despairs.”* Job had given up, mentally and emotionally. He had concluded and firmly believed that it was all over for him; and he wanted to get it over with and die. But he didn't! You see, this is what Job had concluded about his life here on earth, but he didn't know what the mind of God was on this matter. **God was not through with blessing him. This was just one of those storms in life, one**

**of those trials that all God's people go through. Only to find on the other side a life full of blessing, even more than they had before.** Remember, that God blessed Job doubly with all that he had before the trial in every area, after the trial was over.

**The problem lies in the difficulty involved in getting through the trial to the other side.** That is why the believer needs something to give him faith, to encourage him, to keep him moving forward, even though in his heart he may not want to. And that's where the promises of God's Word and sound doctrinal teaching come in, (along with prayer and the fellowship of other believers). These things play such an important part in the believer's faith. For the Word, doctrine, prayer, and the encouragement of other believers, **help stir up the faith in us; they help motivate us to keep moving forward in faith each day.**

When we're talking about trials, we're not talking about somebody who wanted their eggs over easy, but ended up with the yolks broken! We're talking about believers who have gone through: debilitating sicknesses, injuries, who have had their hearts crushed by losing someone they love, who have suffered crushing disappointments, financial reversals, business setbacks, the loss of personal relationships, who have had their lives drastically altered through divorce, or rejection, or some other thing. We're talking about believers who have really been put through it at the level of Job, or close to it. Having gone through these things, or maybe they're still in one; it is **these precious grace believers that need something to encourage them, something to give them hope for the future;** an object supplied to them by God that they can set their sights on and begin moving toward it. Sort of like being aboard a ship at sea in a pounding storm and you see an island you can steer toward for shelter.

And God in his great grace and love for us has supplied us these things, but it will take a shift of mental attitude for some to let go of their worldly ideas and pursuits to pursue after these grace objectives. **One goal** is the goal of personal perfection, or maturity, as some call it, towards completion of the soul. Maturity is always the ever-present goal for the believer, as it was with the Apostle Paul. The **second goal** is to live for the Word of God, It becomes the object of our faith; the thing that we look forward to. In the world, people look forward to their jobs, their families, their activities, their trips, their possessions, their friends, things to do, places to go, people to see, things to buy. But if one has these things, what do they do now? What do they live for? What do they look forward to? But God has given us some thing that will never be taken away from us, and that is his Word. And once we begin to look for ward each day to it, we will find a new hope for us in life! But this is a spiritual matter all the way through, and requires putting off the old sin nature, through the confession of sin, and walking in the new man under the filling of the Holy Spirit. These two goals are always there for us and are sufficient enough to arouse our faith and keep us moving forward in the plan of God, even though we are unable to see all the wonderful things that God has in store for us in the future.

But there is **another goal to live for**, and that is to serve God and glorify him with our lives, while we're here on earth; and this is accomplished with his Word. But there is still another goal, and that is enjoying the many blessings God still has in store for us. Even though you can't see them yet, and maybe you don't think that they will ever be there; they still are! *"For his mercies are new every morning"*. And another goal is looking forward to God answering our prayers. If we're still alive, (you'll have to verify this for yourself), then all these things are there waiting for us. But we must get up and start moving ahead in the plan of God in faith. Life is for living, and the living. And for the child of God, it's an opportunity for God to bless him, even in the devil's world. Remember, the unbeliever lives to: accomplish goals, attain things and gratify their desires. But the child of God's purpose is much higher and nobler than this! His is to: accomplish God's purpose for his life, to enjoy the things that God does for him, and to live a life of love walking in the truth. And as he sees these

noble objects set before him in grace, he will once again rise and walk the walk of faith

## 58. Faith's relationship to hope.

**God is the God of hope and wants us to have hope.** It may seem odd to us, that God does not just give us hope, but that his own outlook towards the future is one of hope. Obviously, this is not just wishful thinking, or hoping that things will somehow just work out, but **a personal mental attitude of confidence that there are going to be good and wonderful things in the future**; and this is the mental attitude that God wants us to have. *“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.” Romans 15:13.*

**But how does this mental attitude become a reality in the mind of the believer?** Romans 15:13 tells us that **it comes to us through the exercising of faith in the Word of God**. As we trust in him; as we exercise faith in the doctrines and promises of God, we begin to develop **a positive, confident mental attitude towards the future**; a mental attitude of hope. And as we begin to once again exercise our faith in the Word of God, even through the most difficult of trials, our mental attitude's will begin to change from pessimism and despair to optimism and hope.

In fact, this is one of the reasons why God gave the elect his Word; and in the Church Age, the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher and the local church, was for the purpose of imparting his hope to us! *“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance, (staying with the Word of God and the plan of God, while one is enduring the trial), and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4.*

God's mental attitude of hope for the future is there because he has planned so many wonderful things, so many wonderful blessings that will keep on unfolding, not only in this life, in the future, but in eternity as well. And he has the power to carry them out! And as the Father looks down the annals of time, and beyond that, when time shall be no more; he sees nothing but good, nothing but blessings and wonderful things. God's attitude of hope does not consist of doubt, where he wonders if there is going to be anything good in the future; but one of absolute confidence, because he has ordained good and the blessing of grace for the future; and having absolute power, he will do them.

And he wants us to have this same mental attitude towards the future, **to adopt his mental attitude by seeing the future from his perspective**. But to do this, we have to look towards the future with the eyes of faith; believing that God still has much good in store for us, a life of blessing, not a life of cursing and suffering. To do this, we must arouse the faith in us, stir it up, so that it believes the promises of God. He has given us his promises, and we know how rock-solid they are, but we have to make the conscious choice to believe them, and not cave into the devil, the world and negative viewpoint.

God's mental attitude is one of hope, and that's the mental attitude that he wants us to have, along with the peace, joy and power that accompanies it. And it motivates us! For, **as one has the confidence that good awaits him in the future**, he will get up and start moving ahead in life. Tomorrow will still come, regardless of whether we are walking in faith, or laying in the bed of despair.

Fear, of course, is the enemy. Actually, unbelief is; the fear proceeds out of our unbelief. We have suffered so much hurt in life, so many trials, so many disappointments, for so long, that we have become afraid of the future. Failing to see, or refusing to see, that God has taken us through each one of them! And also failing to recognize the countless blessings of God that we have received from the hand

of God along the way.

And that's the problem, we're believing the wrong thing! We believe that all we're going to see in life is suffering and testing; and we're not believing all the good that God is going to be doing in life. **We're focusing on the negative part of it and not the positive.** We need to see that **God saved us to bless us**, *“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”* 1 Peter 3:9. **This desire and promise of God to bless us is our hope for the future!**

Now if God saved us to bless us, then that means **the sum and substance of our existence on earth, as well as in heaven is to be one of blessing**; that our future consists of good things happening to us. This is what the believer in Christ needs to understand and believe, especially if he or she is going through trials; that it is not always going to be adversity, but that good awaits them.

But what about the bad that one is presently going through? **First** of all, it doesn't last forever; it too will end. And **two**, it has it's purpose, although one is not readily impressed by that idea. But we do have the promise of our heavenly Father that he will cause it to work out for our good. Romans 8:28.

Maybe we have lost so many things in life that have made up our reasons for living; family members, friends, a marriage, our business, the nation, money, love, physical activity, that we have lost all reason for living. True, it is a blow to lose these things, and difficult to recover from the shock of it all. For there is the grief of losing someone you love, or something you loved doing, (or loved eating), but there is also the added shock of disorientation. "Now what do I do with my life?" When you've lost so many of your reasons for living, what do you have left? Well what you have left is the plan of God, the power of God, the Word of God, the grace of God, the blessings of God, the goodness of God, the love of God, the presence of God, the compassion of God, and God himself with you every day to comfort you and lead you along in his perfect plan for your life and then you into glory to be with him face to face.

God has ordained blessings for us throughout the rest of our lives, even our last days on earth have been designed by him to be a blessing and an opportunity to serve him. We have to see that by faith, and keep moving ahead in faith, so that we can appropriate and enjoy his blessings.

It's like standing on the pathway of life, like a street, and looking down it only to see no fruit on the trees. But, one is able to **see one large tree down at the end of the street**, with lots of fruit on it. That one tree represents one's personal, doctrinal maturity. And so, as one walks down the street towards that tree, lo and behold, **he finds all kinds of fruit on the trees that were along the way**. Which he would have never found and enjoyed, unless he had started moving towards that one tree! The fruit on that one tree is what motivated him forward in the plan of God. Or the tree could be the "**Tree of Life**" that awaits us in the middle of the great street of the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, *“On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding it's fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”* Revelations 22:2. And, *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates of the city.”* Revelations 22:14.

And even if one does not mature in this life, (he will be perfected in heaven, Heb. 12:23), **he is still moving forwards to that tree down at the end of the road; that pathway of his life which will end at the tree of life in the Paradise garden of God in heaven in the New Jerusalem, which is awaiting all the redeemed of God to eat of it's fruit.**

Which says to us in effect, if one has lost all, or thinks that he has; or has lost what was so important to him and has given up on life, no longer able to move ahead; they need not to look back, but to look ahead! And not to look down! But to look down the pathway of life, where they will see heaven awaiting them at the end of it. And there they will see the tree of life, the river of life, and the God who awaits them and gives them life, along with all the redeemed of God. And as he sees that by faith, he can get up off his bed of despair and begin moving ahead in the plan of God; ahead towards that tree, towards heaven, and all that awaits him there from the hand of God. And as he begins moving ahead, he will once again be able to enjoy all the things that God has for him. He need forward momentum. **And it is faith that gives him forward momentum, when he is able to see the objects of God's grace blessings awaiting him.**

## **59. Faith towards the Father.**

One of the most critical doctrines for the believer to understand and be impressed by, to have success, prosperity and victory in the angelic conflict, **is the doctrine that the people of God must ask God for whatever it is that they want in life, want to do in life, and want to see done in life.** It is one thing to have the right desires, to know the right principles, to want the right things in life and see them instituted in one's own life and in life in general. But it is another thing all together to have them come to be!

Even unbelievers recognize many right principles that they would like to see put into effect in their lives and communities, along with believers. But wanting them and seeing them come to pass are two different matters. The believer wants to be successful in life, he wants to prosper, he wants to have victory in the angelic conflict, he wants to see his community and nation founded on biblical principles. But wanting them is not enough. Wanting them is a good thing, it is the right thing; but it does not cause them to be.

**The issue is how does one get these biblical desires and principles out of the minds and hearts of believers into the mainstream of life and reality?** And the answer is, **we must ask God for them.** Nothing happens on earth without God's direct or permissive will. Even Satan had to ask God for the permission to test Job. Job 1:9-12. **Asking the Father is an expression and manifestation of faith.** The believer hears the teaching on a doctrine, such as, *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."* Hebrews 4:16. The believer believes that doctrine, accepts it as being true, and then **acts upon that faith by going to the Father to ask him for whatever he needs.** Most believers do this from the time that God saves them, but do not really understand the importance, ramifications and