

FAITH OR FEAR - 12/27/20

As we approach this new year, I want to ask all of us this question...

Are we filled with faith, or fear; faith - or anxiety?

Are we expecting great things from God, or terrible trouble?

God wants us to be filled with His faith, with a positive attitude.

And a very positive confession.

But, Satan wants us to be filled with anxiety, worry, torment.

One of Satan's greatest weapons is the spirit of fear.

Satan controls people with fear.

Remember, God is light, in him there is no darkness, no anxiety.

Jesus is the Prince of peace. And he wants us to have peace.

In 1 John 4:18, we are told that fear has torment. Let's read it:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18, KJV.

So God wants to perfect His love in us, ... to have great confidence in him.

Romans 8:28, KJV - “And we know that all things [are working] together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

God wants us to have a very positive attitude, and positive confession.

God is good, he's going to take care of us. He will meet all our needs.

And, let's remember Ecclesiastes 3:11 -

God is going to make everything beautiful in his time.

God often doesn't explain everything, or give many details about tomorrow.

If he did, Faith would not develop. This was true in the life of Job.

**God was very silent during Job's trial. God did not tell Job:
In one year this trial will be over, and I'll restore twice as much as you lost.
I have learned that God often doesn't give details and exact dates....
"This trial will end at such and such time..."
Faith does not develop in our lives, if God explained everything in advance.**

**Faith is a divine trust in God. Ultimately, He'll work everything out perfectly.
We need to say - God would only do what is best for me, and his people.
His wisdom is perfect, he is worthy to be trusted. His love is perfect.
Lord, I trust you, even though I don't understand everything.
Even though I don't see the whole picture, I know you will do what is best.**

**So, as we enter this new year, let's enter with great faith in our heart.
Let us rebuke all fear and anxiety. Remember, fear has torment.
But we have the Prince of Peace living in our heart.
Peace is also a fruit of the Spirit. Peace is God's very nature.**

**God has a perfect plan. He is using this present world epidemic,
to get man's attention, and to turn many people back to God.
Mankind quickly goes astray from God, especially when things are easy.
Prosperity often causes people to forget God, and not rely on him.
So God has to remove his blessing, to get man's attention.**

**Even if there is economic trouble, or food shortages...
God is well able to take care of us.**

**In the 1930s, there was economic trouble and food shortages in Wales.
Everyday, Christians would lay hands on their cupboard doors, and pray.
When they opened the cupboard door, there would be fresh food everyday.
This went on for months. Fresh food every day.
When there was no employment, money, food. God provided for them.
King David said: I have never seen the righteous forsaken, or his children
begging for bread. Let's read that: Psalms 37:25 -**

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” Psalms 37:25, KJV.

**God is going to take good care of us. Life is not always easy,
But God always does what is best for us.**

**In America, we have an undecided election.
Satan wants to control our country with an evil government.
Let's believe God to take care of this situation.
There is nothing too hard for God.
He spoke the whole universe into existence.
And He can easily control the election results.
Let's continue to pray that God will intervene in our election results.**

Coming revival

**We are now living at the end of the church age.
But, we have certain promises from God....
That before Jesus comes again, there will be a world wide revival.
Let's read Acts 2:17-21: a quote from Joel 2:28-32**

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

We believe this prophecy is about to happen very soon.

In Acts 2:17-21, Peter is applying these verses to his time (1st century). But actually, these verses only had a partial fulfillment in Peters time. Yes, God was pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh in the first century. Great signs / wonders / miracles, but Jesus did not return then. The complete fulfillment will be in our time, just before Jesus comes.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is like a heavy rain falling upon man. In Israel, there are two major rain falls during the year. The early rain, is in late November early December, A light rain. This soft rain is to soften the ground for plowing and for planting.

But in April is the heavy latter rain. So heavy, Jordan overflows it's banks. This heavy rain brings the harvest to full maturity. It's harvest time. God has promised an outpouring of the latter rain, in these last days. Let's have faith, that in these difficult times, Great revival is coming.

The latter rain

Yes, before Jesus comes, there will be a worldwide harvest of souls. There will be fabulous signs and wonders, tremendous miracles / healing. God is going to give everyone an opportunity to receive eternal life. He's not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance.

Then, God needs to sort out the harvest - the wheat from the tares

Just before Jesus comes, God allows an imposter to come, the antichrist. Often this is not understood by much of the church world. The reason — It is to separate those who are real Christians, from those were not real. God allows a false Christ to come first, to test all the human race. Those not truly committed to Christ will be drawn to this deceiver, this liar. But here again is where our faith will be greatly tested.

**During the last 3 1/2 years of the church age, just before Jesus comes,
The antichrist will control the world's economy.**

**According to revelation 13:16-17, You cannot buy or sell anything,
unless you worship Satan's imposter, the antichrist. Let's read it:**

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, [except] he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:16, 17, KJV.

One of man's greatest weaknesses -

Satan knows where mankind is very weak and vulnerable.

It is in the area of money, the area of financial security.

Money is a tremendous issue of the human heart.

Many people will sell their soul for temporary financial security.

So, our faith must be much stronger than fear.

Jesus taught, do not worry about tomorrow, what shall we eat or drink?

Let's read Matthew 6:30-33:

“O ye of little faith...Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do [mankind] seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

The problem, even in many Christians, is fear, the lack of faith.

Once again, satan controls people with fear, with terrible anxiety.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:30, the problem is, - O ye of little faith.

But If we seek God and righteousness, he will provide all these things.

**So as we enter this new year, let's ask God to increase our faith.
By an act of our will, let us refuse negative, gloomy, fearful thoughts.
Faith is one of the fruits of the spirit, as it says in Galatians 5:22:**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no [higher] law.” Galatians 5:22, 23, KJV.

**These nine fruits of the spirit, are the very nature of God.
To have these attributes, is to be conformed to the image of Christ.
There is no higher law than to have these fruits of the Spirit in our life.**

Paul said I live by the faith of the son of God. Ga 2:20* ... Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**As we grow in our spiritual life, all these divine fruits and attributes grow.
We want greater love, greater joy, greater peace, greater faith.**

**Christ commanded, see that you be not troubled in these times.
Matthew 24:6:**

**Mt 24:6* And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:7, 8, KJV.**

**We are not to worry about coming difficulties. God has it all under control.
Even if some are called to give their life, instantly they are in eternal bliss.
This life is very short, we are here to be tested. May our faith be purified.**

! Tim. 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called,” God bless you abundantly.

