

FAITH IS SEEING THE UNSEEN

(Mark 8:15-21; Matt. 15:32-33; Luke 19:42-43)

Why are you fearful in this manner? Why is there no faith in you (Mark 4:40)? Israel lacked the faith to see beyond their experiences in the desert and many died on the way to the Promise Land; It was as if they had lost focus of the purpose. The Son of YAHWEH came and lived among them and again they failed to see Him for what he was and rejected Him. The crowd saw the miracles and experienced them in the multiplications of bread and fish, but when the time came, they yelled, Crucify Him! His followers, the apostles, did not do any better in the time of His trial; one betrayed Him, the other denied Him and the rest abandoned Him in His darkest hour.

They failed to recognize Him walking in the water in a stormy night; they failed to recognize Him as YAHWEH through His works of miracles; they failed to consider or understand [the teaching and the meaning of] the loaves; because their hearts had grown callous (Mark 6:49-52).

They saw with their physical eyes the evidence but did not perceive the reality of the true faith. YAHSHUA asked them the question, **Do you not discern or understand? Are your hearts in hardness? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear and perceive and understand the sense of what is said** (Vs. 8)? But as it is said, they did not mix the experience with faith. The seed of faith did not penetrate in their heart to make a difference in their attitude to gain spiritual insight, so they remained faithless. They were faithless at the resurrection of YAHSHUA when He appeared to them; they thought Him to be a ghost. YAHSHUA then asked them, Why are you disturbed and troubled, and why do such doubts and questionings arise in your hearts (Luke 24:38)? And when Thomas expressed his unbelief to the disciples saying, Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into his side, I will **never** believe! In another words, I will believe when I see it! YASHSHUA then said to him, Do not be faithless and incredulous, but believe! **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN ME AND YET HAVE BELIEVED** (John 20:25-29).

On the third month that Israel had been in the desert, YAHWEH said to Moses, You have **seen** what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself (Exodus 19:4). Had they mixed these experiences with faith, they would have had it easier, because blessings follow obedience: If you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, said YAHWEH, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples. . . and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (Exodus 19:5,6).

“The just shall live by faith”; faith that sees the unseen through all hard circumstances that life brings; faith when the sun does not shine, faith when out of work; faith when in sickness, for it is with the eyes of faith that the just will perceive hope to endure the trials. Our trials are like an exercise machine, it strengthens the muscles of faith. Through them we learn endurance, perseverance and acquire strength and understanding to face the next trial.

The prophet Habakkuk's faith shows contentment in trials as he sees with the eyes of faith beyond the reality of his needs, he said, Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the live fails and the field yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in YAHWEH; I will exult in the ELOHIM of my salvation (Hab. 3:17,18). That means, though I don't see with my physical eyes the provision for my body, I will exercise faith to see the unseen and believe in YAHWEH'S faithfulness. The just shall live by faith!

Faith to believe in salvation, but not faith to believe in sanctification for endurance in our pilgrimage, it is not faith at all. The life of faith in our pilgrimage will be that which will carry us to heaven. There is no short cuts to heaven, one, two, skip a few, ninety-nine, a hundred, is just a joke, but not the reality of a spiritual successful life that will take us to heaven. The things we see, the things we experience, the things we hear, we must mix them with faith to believe the Word of YAHWEH, He that began a good work in you will continue until the day of YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH, developing and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you (Phil. 1:6). The believer suffers from the same spiritual blindness as Israel; he does not see beyond his trials the beautiful things YAHWEH has prepared for him and because of that, he has become short sighted and unable to see with the eyes of faith the sun shining the way to his eternal destination, the Promise Land.

Noah, as a hero of faith, is an example of faith seeing the unseen, when he, in obedience to YAHWEH, built an ark for the salvation of his family. He was forewarned by YAHWEH concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, took heed and diligently and reverently constructed and prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family (Hebrews 11:7). The heroes of the faith all died controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [YAHWEH'S] promises, only having seen it and greeted it from a great distance by faith, and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were strangers and temporary residents and exiles upon the earth. But the truth is that they were yearning for and aspiring to a better and more desirable country, that is, a heavenly[one] . . . All of these, though they won divine approval by their faith, did not receive the fulfillment of what was promised (Hebrews 11:13,16,39). They lived by faith and saw the promise through the eyes of faith. So it is that faith is seeing and believing the unseen.

Faith is in the hearing of those who give heed to the written Word. Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the Word of YAHWEH (Romans 10:17). YAHSHUA compared the person who hears and acts upon the words to obey to a sensible man who built his house upon the rock. His house stood firm during the storm because it had been built on solid faith. The words we hear are of no effect on us, if it is not heard with faith. YAHSHUA said, Be careful what you are hearing; the measure you give will be the measure that comes back to you and more will be given to you who hear. For him who has, will more be given, and from him who has nothing even what he has will be taken away (Mark 4:24).

When the Word is heard without faith is like the seed that fell on the side of the road; the message was heard, but not taken into the heart; it is also like the seed that fell on the stony

place; because of the hardness of the heart, the message was not received with faith, and the seed could not germinate life into it and was scorched by the sun. The seed that fell on thorns was attacked by the worries of life and because where there is worry, there is no faith, the life of the seed was suffocated by it without a chance to mature its fruit. YAHWEH says, Bend your ears and come to Me; **hear** and your soul shall live. .. (Isaiah 55:3).

Have you not known? Have you not **heard**? YAHWEH the everlasting ELOHIM, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding (Isaiah 40:28).

Be hearing and listening with faith, so that the understanding and keen insights into YAHWEH'S Word might come to you in an increased measure. The more you have, the more will be given to you. **SPEAK YAHWEH, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING!** My friend, let faith take deep roots in your life and you will understand the deep meanings of YAHWEH'S purpose and will for you.