

HEALING THROUGH SANCTIFICATION (2)

(Luke 18:35-43; 18:1-8; Daniel 9:3-20)

FAITH VERSUS DOUBT

As He (Yahshua) came near to Jericho, it occurred that a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. And hearing a crowd going by, he asked what it meant. They told him, **Yahshua of Nazareth is passing by**. And he shouted, saying, Yahshua, Son of David, take pity and have mercy on me! But those who were in front reproved him, telling him to keep quiet; **yet he screamed and shrieked so much the more, Son of David, take pity and have mercy on me!** Then **Yahshua stood still and ordered that he be led to Him**; and when he came near, Yahshua asked him, what do you want Me to do for you? He said, Lord, let me receive my sight! Yahshua said to him, Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you. And instantly he received his sight and began to follow Yahshua, recognizing, praising, and honoring God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God (Luke 18:35-43). The blind man overcame the voices of doubt coming from the crowd and persevered in faith to receive his healing.

In our path to healing through sanctification, we must hold onto faith to be able to hear the steps of our healer, Yahshua, when He is passing by.

In the quietness of our hearts when we recognize His steps, then we must cry to Him, Yahshua, have mercy on me! This is a cry from a humble heart, recognizing the weakness and the need for help. Voices of doubt will try to stop this cry, as in the story we read above, however, as the blind man persisted in shouting even louder than the voices of the crowd, so that Yahshua could hear him, so we must raise our voices higher than the circumstances and the spirit of doubt that comes to destroy our faith and distract us from Yahshua's healing. At the persistence of the blind man's cry, Yahshua "stood still and ordered that he be led to Him". When the blind man called Him, "Son of David", he showed belief that Yahshua was the Messiah Who was to come and faith that He, as the Messiah, was able to heal him from his physical blindness.

To approach Yahshua, however, he had to do one thing: to throw his outer garment aside so that he could have freedom to run to meet Yahshua. In His presence, when Yahshua asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you"? He said, "Lord, let me see"! He didn't say, I want to see, but instead, "Let me see". With that, he showed that only Yahshua could do that for him. Yahshua said to him, "Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you".

We, many times, are unaware of garments we carry, keeping us from meeting with the Savior to have a relationship with Him. And in the process, we are distracted with many other things to do and like Martha we find no time to sit at the Savior's feet to learn and to be blessed. Garments can be doubt, fear, anxiety, unforgiveness, greedy, pride, lust, insecurity and many more. Whatever they are get rid of it and be free to receive your healing.

THE VOICES OF DOUBT

They are everywhere! And even inside our souls- The mind, the will, the emotions working together against the purpose of God. We become blinded by it in the acceptance of the lies and believe that nothing seems possible, not even the promises of God. They come from families, friends, through the electronic waves and because we believed their lies we will not be able to stand firmly dressed with the Word of God in our hearts to overcome it. The voice of doubt comes when we don't see quick results of prayers. With pain being greater than the faith we have in the promise of God, "By His stripes you are healed", questions will arise in the mind reasoning the fact that if it is true, how come you and many others are still sick? The spirit of doubt is a spirit from hell, dressed in a snake skin to deceive and to rob faith and peace from us. It did in the Garden of Eden and our forefathers fell to it. Recognize the spirit of doubt and in submission to God resist it!

In her doubt, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, she went to see the dead Lord. She had heard the truth of His resurrection, however doubt kept her in darkness, removing any hope to see Him alive. So she went looking for answers in an unreliable source- she went looking for the living among the dead and suffered unnecessary grief. She was found so deeply in her sorrow that she could not hear the voice of Yahshua neither see Him, in her tears and in her sobs. It was not until He emphatically called her out of her doubt that she woke up to His truth. He had to call her by her name, Mary! For her finally to hear Him. It was as when the Lord called Lazarus out of death to life. If the Lord had not called Lazarus by name, everyone else found dead, would have being raised to life, so powerful was His resurrection power! Yahshua called Mary out of her unbelief to the truth of His Word, His promise, "I will rise on the third day; I am the Resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, although he may die, yet he shall live" (John 11:25).

The question was set before her: Why are you looking for the living among the dead (Luke 24:5)? God is not in doubts; He is not in our worries. He is in our pure faith and hope. Yahshua told Thomas not to be incredulous, (doubtful), but be a believer (John 19:27). In doubt we establish our own way of thinking of how things should be and reject God's way of how they should be.

PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH, IN PRAYER, IN HOPE

In his perseverance in faith, the prophet Habakkuk prayed, "Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] and make [spiritual progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]]! (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

The just shall live by faith (Hebrews 10:38) there is no other way to please God. To exercise faith it is necessary to have endurance, patience. Faith is not needed when things are going well and the south wind is blowing gently toward us. No, it will be necessary in the valleys and in the deserts, for our endurance and patience to overcome and be victorious. When in trials consider the words of the letter to the Hebrews and be encouraged. "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence; for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward". Perseverance and patience are the fuel and the spark pluck of faith; they give energy and focus to the purpose for suffering.

How then, can faith be practical in our living? **(1)** Be a student of the Word of God **(2)** let His Word take place in your heart, be a doer of His Word **(3)** let go of your needs after you pray and let God take care of them for you **(4)** believe that it is finished, it is done and all is well in the heavenly sphere and it will be well in the sphere of your life **(5)** Let your voice of praise and adoration to God be heard.

PERSEVERANCE IN PRAYER

How should I persevere in prayer? **(1)** With praise and worship. The difference between praise and worship is: **praise is an expression of our feeling of gratitude for What God has done for us, through words or song; it is to glorify and extol Him; Worship is a result of intense love and devotion for God for what and Who He is.** **(2)** Perseverance in prayer should be with confession, in humbleness and contriteness of spirit. As the prophet Daniel did when he sought the Lord. "And I set my face to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes; and I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, Who keeps covenant, mercy and loving-kindness with those who love Him and keep His commandments (praise and worship), we have sinned and dealt perversely and done wickedly and have rebelled, turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances (confession). **(3)** Persevere in prayer by bringing Him to remembrance of His promises as in Isaiah 53:4-5, Luke 18:17! **(4)** By submitting to God's sovereign will **(5)** pray at all times in the Spirit interceding in behalf of the saints.

The Patriarch Isaac prayed with persistence for twenty years for his wife, because she was unable to bear children, and the Lord granted his prayer (Genesis 25:21).

In the parable of Luke 18:1-7, Yahshua teaches us to persevere in prayer. He said, "And will not God defend and protect and avenge His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them and delay help on their behalf"? He answered this question by saying, "I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily".

PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE

It is very important that the hope for whatever we expect to receive be strong in the root of faith, for faith and hope are embedded in each other. We can't see faith, but we can feel hope;

it is a feeling of anticipation of that which we were promised, or things we want, will happen. Hope is a beautiful feeling; it is based on something we know, therefore, we expect it. Hope is that feeling that springs forth from within that gives us the certainty that all will be alright., In hope we can see beyond the present circumstances and proclaim, "All is well", as it was proclaimed by the Shunammite while she faced the death of her son, and because of that her son was brought to life (II Kings 4:18-29). Abraham well believed that God would provide a lamb to take the place of his son on the altar, and it happened. Faith is hope in her assurance and certainty that it will happen. In faith and hope, we tell the world that our God is faithful; that He is good all the time and His mercies are new every morning; He does not bless us with the the yesterday's leftovers. He has new blessings for us every morning. In Lamentations 3: 21-24, the prophet Jeremiah confessed: But this I recall and therefore have I hope and expectation: It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail no. They are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness. The Lord is my portion or share, says my living being therefore will I hope in Him and wait expectantly for Him.