



BEARING FRUITS THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

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FEBRUARY, 2011

HARDNESS OF THE HEART!

How important it is to change on the Heart level? Once you change your Heart inwardly your outward situation will change.

This teaching is of a truth, you need to understand. God loves us regardless of who we are! His love is not depending on what we do; His love is because of who He is. Titus 2: 11-14; tells us; For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

When we sit down to study the word of God and it is difficult to earnestly concentrate. If it feels like you are just going through the motion; it's evident this is an area of a harden heart. Your heart is hardened towards the understanding of the content. We are all guilty of this at one time or another, and until we get control of this area in our live we are subjecting ourselves to being influence by the enemy. I am brining this to our attention in order for us to work at it, to correct it, because this is an area in which we can easily be sidetracked. Here is a good example. In Matt: 14: 13-21; is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. The multitude had been with Jesus and His Disciples for days now listening to His teachings, and as it became night His Disciples said; Master send them away that they may go into the villages and buy food to eat. But Jesus said to them, "they do not need to go away, you give them something to eat." (Jesus, thinking their hearts is softened and is able to do the task). And they said we have only five loaves and two fish. Jesus said, bring them here to Me. He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass. He took the loaves and the fishes He looked up to Heaven blessed and broke and gave them to His Disciples and His Disciples gave to the multitude. They all ate and were filled. And they were twelve baskets left over. Now this was about five thousand men plus women and children. After seen a miracle like this, you would think there is no doubt in the Disciples mind, no hardness of heart towards His caper ability, and even there's. He blessed and breaks and gave it to the Disciples and the Disciples gave to the multitudes, which showed, the miracle took place in the Disciples hands. Only the hardness of the heart would cause them not to see that! Jesus sat the multitude down when it was almost evening, and the Disciples entered the boat at evening. So if the Disciples were to be going back to Jesus every time they gave each person a meal they would be there all night. It's obvious the multiplication of the miracle took place in the Disciples hands. How could they not see that? Their hearts were hardened! But here is what took place right after that. Jesus sent the multitude away and made His Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side of the sea. And He went up in the mountain to pray. If you look carefully at the command He gave them; (He made them get into the boat! you would see there was some reluctance on the part of the Disciples; as seasoned fishermen they must have noticed the condition of the weather.) Now when evening came, He (Jesus) was alone there. The boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was very high. To cross from one side of the sea to the other is about a two hour boat ride. Now it was the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them walking on the water. (The fourth watch would be between three and six a m} They had only reached half way across the sea; a two hour trip is taking them almost twelve hours. And when

the Disciples saw Him walking on the water, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying; "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said; Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. So He said; "Come". And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous (when he lost faith, when he harden his heart) he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out saying; "Lord save me"! And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him; "Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat the wind ceased and the boat was transformed to the other side of the sea. The Disciples were not in the area of sin! They were just occupied with the struggle of trying to get across the sea, this hardened their heart! Using their own ability instead of exercising their Spiritual Faith. Remember you can only be tempted by what you think about. So don't think about anything you don't to be tempted by. "Hallelujah!" This is a situation in which I myself was guilty of being heart hardened! I received a call one morning from one of the Saints of our prayer meeting, asking me to pray for a young boy who had suddenly fallen ill! The boy had a blood condition and was in a comber. We prayed together for him to receive the healing God promised. Half hour after we prayed she called me back and said; he was awake and talking! I was so excited; I couldn't believe God had really healed him! I exhibited a state of a hard heart. I should have known better! I should have known God already heal him, it was just for him to receive his healing! God is good all the time. We are never to question the Powers of God! We must know in our heart God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Pastor Jonathan.

AN ANSWER FOR THE REASON OF MY HOPE

By Shelby

Peter 3:15 says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asked you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"

One brisk November evening, a good friend of mine stopped by for a visit because it was her birthday. We sat and chatted for a while when she asked if I would accompany her to the store on the corner. I bundled my daughter and myself up and we headed to the store. We were stepping out of the main lobby of my building when I jumped back inside, closed my eyes and prayed a simple prayer that God watch over us, keep us safe and covered in HIS precious blood. My friend Kisha realizing that I was not behind her doubled back to see where I was and when she realized that I was praying, sucked her teeth and said "Damn, you're praying just to go to the store." I smiled and simply replied "Yes."

We were at the end of the parking lot when I heard a loud screech. Suddenly my daughter was thrust out of my hand with so much force that my back twisted and a sharp pain shot through my body from the back of my neck all the way down my legs. My daughter had been struck by a car and was caught under the two back wheels of this huge old school Cadillac. Kisha, realizing what happened, ran to flag

down a police car that was on the next corner. The driver was trying to floor his gas pedal to get away and since my daughter was caught under the back wheel he threw the car in reverse to get unstuck and continued to roll over my child. I watched in horror, while unsuccessfully attempted to pull her from under the huge vehicle. The driver threw the car back in drive and tried to speed out of the parking lot; luckily the police had boxed him in and forced him to get out of the vehicle.

The man stumbled out of the vehicle clearly intoxicated, yelling and cursing at the police who had their guns drawn. The police ran over to me and told me not to touch my daughter. She was lying on the ground with thread marks going across her Black leather shear ling coat. She was crying and visibly upset. When the ambulance arrived they placed her in a tiny stretcher and attempted to thoroughly check her out. To our surprise, she did not have a scratch on her entire body. The paramedics couldn't believe it! When we arrived at the hospital, the doctors ran several tests for internal bleeding and continued to run CAT scans but they found nothing. Each doctor that would come into the room would ask to see the coat that she was wearing to confirm that she had been hit.

In the waiting room Kisha, who was unaware that my daughter was alright, and was totally upset. She said "I can't believe that this is happening. A whole lot of good you're praying did! Why didn't God prevent that from happening? She's only three years old, the littlest one of us all, if he didn't protect her, what makes you think he'll protect you? I've never been to church and you go all the time so if God is so good why do the worst things happen to his people? If the bible says that God does so much, how come the people who serve him their lives are so messed up?" I replied "Kisha God is mathematically unsound. A car weighing 2000lbs ran over my baby who is only a little over 30lbs and she doesn't have a scratch on her. Bad things are going to happen because God has given us free will, and some use that will to do all manner of evil and if not for God's protection, trouble would come and there would be no way out. Christians face all manner of hardship but God delivers them out of every one. "

It was now 9am the next morning and my daughter was released from the ER without as much as a scratch. In hind sight, I believe that the entire incident was less about my daughter and more about God showing his awesome power to those that didn't know him, my friend, the police, the paramedics, and even the doctors would all have to give God the glory after witnessing something like that.

They That Turn Many To Righteousness...

Psalm 126:1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Psalm 126:2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Psalm 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

Psalm 126:4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

Psalm 126:5 they that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Psalm 126:6 He that Goethe forth and wept, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Seek God first, seek His righteousness to rain down upon you, seek that the fallow ground be broken and fertile for the planting of God so that when you pray, He moves you to wail from the depths of your being as a divine impartation of the great intercessor Himself.

When you speak the truth let it be from that place of brokenness with the love of God for the lost, with that same love that took the LORD of Glory out of heaven and set His nose like flint to die on a cross for His enemies.

Then will you not just gather one here and one there, but you will have bundles of souls come in with you on that glorious day of redemption and your light will shine with eternal brightness as do the very stars of Heaven which proclaim the very intention of God for you.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

Ephesians 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

By Gary D. Gray

FEB. 6th, 2011.

Develop A Heart For God

People who have a heart for God want to know Him. And they want to know Him well. People who seek after God want what He wants. And what God wants is that we become more like Him. Because we all fall short of the standard God has for us in the way we think, act, and live our lives, we all need to change. But only God can make changes in us that last. And only as we seek Him for those changes.

No matter how long we have known God or walked with Him, we can always pray we will know Him better and walk with Him closer. In the same way we pray for ourselves, we can also pray for our adult children. While we can't pray a relationship with God into existence for them, we can pray that their hearts will be turned toward the Lord and open to receive from Him. We can pray that they have a desire to know God better and become more like Him. We can pray that their hearts will be closed to the lies of the enemy and open to God's truth.

Juliette.

"Body of Christ. Do Not Step Down From Confrontation!"

By Bianca.

"The Prophet Elijah Did Not."

1 Kings 17:1 now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

Elijah was from a place called Tishbe in the region known as Gilead. The very name "Gilead" in its Hebrew form means "raw or rugged." This tells us that Elijah was an out in the bone dock man. When he stepped onto the scene and began his ministry, his methods, his mannerisms and his message were as rough and rugged as the place he called home.

Elijah's dress code was as strange as anything else we know about him, 2 Kings 1:8. They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

As we read James 5:17-18 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. He was a man with a furious temper, who also dealt with depression. He also suffered from loneliness, due to the life of solitude. I said that to say this, the Lord is not looking for spiritual giants to use for His glory. He is simply looking for people who will readily obey His Word and follow Him where He leads them. You see, nothing at all is known about Elijah until he steps onto the scene in the presence of King Ahab. He was a nobody from nowhere, but he was handpicked by the Lord God to do His will and to carry His message to a nation that was heading to hell in a bread basket.

God doesn't need the rich, the educated, intelligent, beautiful or the movers and shakers of this world to get His work done.

Do you recall David?

1 Sam. 16:6-7, 12 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 11 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. 12 and he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

Brothers and Sister God choose to work through the lives of men and women who will simply yield themselves to the will of God. Look at Isaiah, Isa. 6:8 I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Look at 1 Sam. 15:22. And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. God wants our obedient surrender to His will more than anything else"

you can give to Him, Elijah was a common man with courage. The king of Israel during the time of Elijah was named Ahab. The Bible tells us, 1 Kings 16:30, 33, And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him and Ahab made an Asherah.

Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. Ahab was the wicked king that ever sat upon the throne of Israel. Besides that, he was married to a evil woman named Jezebel. She was the daughter of the king of Zidon. This too was an offense to the Lord, 1 Kings 16:31. Jezebel was from a group of people who were passionate Baal worshipers. And she, along with her husband Ahab, did more to introduce the worship of Baal to the people of Israel than any other ruling family, 1 Kings 16:32. This produced a state of affairs in Israel, where people lost all regard for the commandments of God.

Go to 1 Kings 16:34, where a man named Hiel the Beth elite attempted to rebuild Jericho. This was in direct disobedience to a clear command of God, Josh. 6:26.

Yet, it was to this king that God sent the prophet Elijah. Elijah walked right into the presence of king Ahab and delivered the message of the Lord without batting an eye. He told Ahab that there would be no rain or dew until he said there would be. It took courage to defy the wicked ruler! Each of us needs to manifest that same kind of courage. America today is headed down the same road that Israel was on back then. We have sacrificed our innocence for the pleasures of the flesh. We have openly mocked the written Word of God. We have turned a deaf ear to the cry of the millions of the unborn who are slain in the name of convenience every year in this country. We have paid homage to the onslaught of sexually explicit programming that invades our homes on a daily basis. We have sacrificed our morality to gratify our flesh. We have watched in mock horror as our sons and our daughters yield their bodies to the perversions of premarital sex, homosexuality, and lesbianism. We stand by in mute silence while the minds of our own children are captivated by the siren song of prosperity, selfish indulgence and independence from God. We pass their choice of music off as a fad. We have no say in where they go or what they do. We have watched this once great, godly nation become reduced to a stagnated cesspool of iniquity, open sin and outright hostility to God Almighty.

After Elijah was taken to Heaven in the whirlwind, Elisha took Elijah's mantle and smote Jordan and cried, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?". Elijah's message was that there would be no dew or rain until he said so. This was a direct attack against the false religion of Baal worship. You see, Baal was the Canaanite god of fertility. He was seen in the thunder heads and in the rain that fell. Baal worship was usually conducted on the tops of hills where statues of Baal were built. Typically, these Baal shrines were staffed by priests and priestesses. Worship was carried out through performing sexual acts with one of these ministers of Baal. It was their belief that when you were joined to a priest or a priestess in a sexual union, that you literally became a god or a goddess for that period of time. One of the most horrible aspects of Baal worship existed in the realm of human sacrifice. When there was time of drought, it was supposed to mean that Baal was angry with the people. To get his attention, they would often sacrifice a firstborn child by burning it alive. It was a terrible religion that existed to gratify the flesh. There is much more that could be said about Baal worship, but this is enough to see why it was an offence to the Lord God of Israel. After all it involved breaking many of the commandments, but especially Numbers 1-3 and 7-10. When Elijah made his announcement, he was declaring war on Baal, it took great courage to stand up before the chief promoter of that false religion and in effect say, "My God is greater than Baal! And to prove it, God is going to shut off the spigot. There will be no rain until I say so and there's nothing you, Jezebel or Baal can do about it!" Can you imagine how they must have laughed at him and mocked him? That is kind of courage we need to see manifested in this day. This is the kind of courage that comes from time spent with God. This is the kind of courage that stands up against ridicule, it is the courage that makes us speak out on issues like abortion, homosexual, false religions that is sending our children to hell. We as the children of God needs to walk in the courage that makes a difference for God as we see the day approaching. It is the kind of

courage that says, "I will be different, regardless of what it costs me or my family. I will stand for God!" Are we filled with that kind of courage? Can God count on us to stand? Back to Elijah, his very name tells us his testimony. The name Elijah means "My God Is Jehovah". His name tells us that he had a personal relationship with the God of Heaven, walking into the presence of Ahab and Jezebel in the name of Jehovah, Elijah was demonstrating that in his life and ministry, he was totally dependent upon the Lord. He was not trusting the arm of flesh, but was resting in the everlasting arms by faith. This is the secret of success for the child of God living in a wicked world. Only when we are totally yielded to God in total dependence, will we be assured of success. You see, there is only one thing that honors God and that is Faith, Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23. We must come to the place where we stop trying and start trusting God. What we need are people who live and walk by faith and not by sight. Look at the phrase Elijah used, "Before Whom I stand." Elijah was standing in the presence of the king of Israel. He was standing in the presence of one of the most powerful men of his time. Yet, Elijah was able to see beyond all the trapping, Elijah knew that he was standing in the presence of God. He knew that there was no need to try and please Ahab, he was not going to water down his message and make it pleasing.

There was only one Person in that room who had to be pleased and His name was Jehovah. You know, that is the place we all need to get to in our lives. If we can get beyond what this one or that one might think of us and live for nothing but to please the Lord God, then we are on the road to being used by God. Elijah was a man on a mission. He desired nothing less than carrying out the will of God. Can we honestly say that we do not care what anyone thinks about our stand for God? Can we honestly say that regardless what anyone thinks, we are going to live for God, stand for God and serve God until He finishes with us? That is the attitude of total commitment. That is the attitude God can bless and that God can use. Elijah believed that God was alive. He said, "as the Lord God of Israel live." Most of those other folks were living like Jehovah was dead. Does this sound like America? Does it? We need some people like Elijah who will stand up and say, "You can live like God is dead if you wish, but I am going to live for Him, because He is alive in me." You see, that was Elijah's situation. God was living in him and when God lives in you, you just can't keep Him quiet. Let's look at James 5:17-18. It seems from these verses that the drought was Elijah's idea. Apparently, he was so upset with the sins of the people that he began to pray that it would not rain, but this idea was put into his heart by the Spirit of God, as he prayed, he received assurance that this was indeed the Lord's will, so he just marched up to Ahab and told him it would not rain. He believed that he served a God who was powerful and able to do anything. The church today lack the respect for God and His ability. May I remind you that we serve a God who can do anything, please take the time and read Job 42:4, Luke 1:37, Eph. 3:20 He can meet any need, He can cause anything to take place. He can heal any disease, He can stop any anything from taking place, He is God and He is all powerful, Nothing is too hard for Him. He is God Hallelujah!! That is why we can fight Satan and his activities, because we serve a Mighty God never forget that. What He did for people like Elijah, He can do for you and me. We just have to arrive at the place where we can trust Him totally. Saints God will never, never, ever back away from a single promise he has made to His people. He will not desert you and leave you alone. If He has made a promise to you, it will be fulfilled, it is in his holy word look at Rom. 4:21; Heb. 6:18. Elijah stirred up a hornets' nest when he made his announcement before Ahab. However my point from scripture is that he stood and he did what God had told him to do. Elijah was a man sent from God. He was sent to a wicked people to declare that judgment was coming from the hand of God. He was not afraid to speak up and expose the evils of his day. He was not afraid to live by faith in the God of Heaven. He was not afraid to put his very life into the hand of God and trust God all the way through. I ask the question? How many of us really know God like Elijah did? Are we taking our stand for God in the midst of this wicked world? How many of us are standing against the waves of evil in the world today? Elijah's God has not changed. He is the same Yesterday, Today and Forevermore. Saints do you believe Him regardless of the cost? I Bianca Ambrose say to you this day Body Of Christ for which you are a member and JESUS CHRIST is our head DO NOT Step Down From Confrontation"

BLESSINGS

I am so blessed to be in the presence of God, my parents whom He has put in charge of me, the family that He has given me to take care of! I always thank God for my Mom and Dad, who has truly been a blessing for our family. I can clearly recall one of God's gifts, a miracle indeed; when my son was in distress and I needed to have him with me! God's mercy was what it was, His power of making things come together; with God all things are possible. I have seen the Power of God at work more than once. One of my sons had to have surgery, and believe me that was quite an ordeal for me. By God's grace his life was safe. I even witness two occasions where my Dad was healed by God power. And my Mom's healing, well, that was yet another manifestation of Gods awesome Power.

Ise.

Why do parents make kids do things they don't want to?

Every kid asks their self; why do our parents makes us do things we don't want to do? But what we don't understand at a young age is that they are just trying to take us down the right path. The things they help us with are for the good!

Like when we want to know why we shouldn't stay out pass the time they ask us to be home, it's just because they want to know that we will be safe and we will be out of trouble. There are a lot of things that we don't know that they do, so all they are trying to tell us is that it's not always the best thing to be out an about. And when they tell us we need to get a job! It's so we know how to be independent in the real world it's not because they don't want to help us. Life is not as easy as it looks so for us to understand that they show us what it's like before we are really on our own.

So when you look at it when you get older you say to yourself; I am glad my mom and dad was there to help me understand what is really going on in life. So just know it's never just because they don't want you to be happy its cause they want you to know what's better for you and what will help u in life. I know my mom and dad did a good job with helping me and I am glad I had them there for me!

P.S.(Thank you mom and dad for helping me understand!8D love you both!)

Sharifa.

MAKING IT RIGHT.

Life is a battle field and even if you are strong you can still fall. But life is not about how hard you fall, it's about getting back up. Once you have faith in God, read your Bible and pray daily you can overcome any challenges.

I have been through challenges where I feel like just giving up and not try again. Whenever I am feeling deepness about situations that I can't handle I don't go to my friends or family, I read my Bible and pray a lot. God always answer my prayers even if it doesn't happen in the time frame I would like it to. I give God thanks and praise everyday for answering my prayers. God is an awesome man and he will never give up on us.

Shelline.

IF I AM FAITHFUL

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or loss?

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in His glory, and in His Father's, and the holy Angels.

Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.

These are the Words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled

Which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.

Pastor.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS;

The Ministry of Fruitful Fellowship is grateful to have such faithful Saints and is so blessed to be able to bring you the Word of God. We thank You Lord.

We the Saints agree in the authority of Jesus name for all who are sick in body mind and soul to be made whole in Jesus name!

Father and Great God Almighty we thank you Lord for all that you have done and continue to do on behalf of the Ministry and the Saints who worship and serve you diligently. AMEN.