

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "The Law of Faith"
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We're talking about how to survive in the Kingdom of God. Last week we began talking about the Law of Faith. Let's go on.

The Law of Faith demonstrates that one can be justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law, as one confesses with his mouth the Lord Jesus and believes in his heart that God has raised Him from the dead. The Law of Faith states that if we believe God and His Word and promise, it is accounted to us for righteousness and that by this law, we establish the law. Romans 4.

By grace through faith, we believe the promise of God, we believe in His promised Messiah, Jesus Christ; we are born again/afew, and we are saved, declared righteous before God. We receive Christ into our hearts by grace. Ephesians 2; John 1:12, 13; Titus 3:3-7. We believe Jesus' promise to send the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit as being the Life-Maker, the Life-Producer. We enter the Kingdom of God and learn how to live and to survive in it. By faith.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17. Hebrews 11 tells us that, "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...without faith it is impossible to please Him (God), for the one who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him...These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:1, 6, 13. NKJV.

Faith governs all. We believe what God says and we are assured that whatever God says will come to pass. Whatever the One True and Living God says is so. Thus we read the Word and hear it in our ears. We attend to it in our hearts. Our minds grasp that word. Deep inside where we live, the Word also lives.

We believe; we operate on that belief system. We said that **the eye of faith sees with the mind of Christ.** We believe what we choose to believe and our actions reveal our true beliefs. We believe and then we see: First to the spiritual eye then to the physical eye.

This is how the Kingdom works. We are to operate on the belief system that is connected with the Word of God, with truth. We are to operate on the basis of truth. We have discussed already the Law of Truth. And we are not to doubt as we saw in James 1:6-8. We are to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean upon our own understanding. In all our ways we are to acknowledge God and He will direct our paths - Proverbs 3:5-6. We proceed with confidence on what we find to be God's will - 1 John 5:14-15. As we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ, we operate in faith.

Now remember before, we established that the Law of Truth is in the mouth and that Jesus Christ always spoke truly. And He is Truth. He is the embodiment of Truth. Keep that in mind now because we're going to be talking about where speech fits in. And we're going to look at 2 passages - Ezekiel 37 and then in Mark 11. But in Ezekiel 37, this is the passage that talks about the vision of the Valley of Dry Bones and in this passage, the Hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel and He had brought Ezekiel out by the Spirit of the Lord and set him down in the middle of this Valley that was full of bones.

God caused Ezekiel to pass among these bones and there were very many on the surface of the Valley and they were dry. That's why we have these songs about 'dry bones' and then God says to Ezekiel, **"Son of Man, can these bones live? And I answered, 'oh Lord God, Thou know.'"** Smart Ezekiel, he didn't pretend to have knowledge that he didn't have really. **"And God says, 'Prophecy over these bones and say to them, "Oh dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord!" Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.'"** And then He goes on about all these things He's going to do with these bones "so that you will know that I am the Lord."

In verse 7, Ezekiel says, **"so I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied, there was this noise, and behold a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone,"** and then the sinews and the flesh, and the skin and all that. But there was no breath. And then God says to Ezekiel, **"Again, prophesy to the breath. Prophecy, Son of Man and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God, come from the four winds, oh breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.' So I prophesied as He commanded me and the breath came into them and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army."** Now this is awesome!

Ezekiel listened to the Lord. As Ezekiel heard, he spoke. Remember that's how Jesus said He did too. "As I hear, I speak." As Ezekiel heard the voice of the Lord, he spoke. God spoke to Ezekiel, told him what to say, and then Ezekiel speaks to these bones and everything. Ezekiel spoke out **as God commanded him** to speak. Now what we want to point out is that spirit controls matter. A lesser authority yields to a greater authority. The mind is the ultimate conduit of the spirit and speech is the intermediate conduit between spirit and matter.

Now you know, many today tap into spiritual truths, even this idea that they know. You ask the people on the other side, in the kingdom of darkness, and they know that a lesser authority yields to a greater authority. They know, demons know, the authority of Jesus Christ and even the authority of God's servants.

Remember how they say in Acts, "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?" I heard a funny thing from a pastor one time. He said, you know if someone out there goes to bind demons or cast demons out and demons know who has authority and who doesn't, the demons just go, "bind you back!" like that and they just laugh because if we don't have the authority or the power to enforce that authority, it's really a joke. The spirit realm understands that spirit controls matter and the lesser authority will yield to a greater authority. Speech is very important here in the operation between spirit and matter.

Many today tap into spiritual truths but they fail because they deny the atonement of Jesus Christ. They deny the Law of Righteousness and the Law of Faith. They fail to enter the Kingdom of God and they're trying to gain the kingdom without submitting to the KING, the Lord Jesus Christ. They fail to listen to God's commandments and so they are not living out 'as in heaven, so let it be on earth.' They are not bringing the Kingdom of God, the rule of God in heaven, to this earth. Now Ezekiel listened to God. He spoke as God commanded and it was so. Why was it so? Because he was speaking the command of God.

Now let's look over in Mark 11. In Mark 11:22, Jesus says, "Have faith in God [or have faith of God, the God kind of faith] for truly I say to you whoever *says* (and if you have a Bible out you should really circle that) to this mountain, 'Be taken up [removed; taken away] and be cast into the sea' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. Therefore I say to you, for all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them and they shall be granted to you." So we might say, "we have what we say," especially if God has commanded it. That's why it's so important to pray the Word.

Jesus says, "Have faith in God." Or, "have faith of God," meaning the God-kind of faith. Believe that you have received, and notice the past perfect tense. To do this, we must seek God. We have to hear His command, attend to His word, find out His plan determined in heaven. God is the source and sustainer of all life. There can be no doubt and no suspicion. What the Living God says goes.

When we speak of faith, we're talking about conviction, confidence, trust, reliance, belief. The faith that saves is something divinely implanted. It is an inward confidence, assurance, and hearty reliance on and in the true God and all that He says. Faith has an object as well as being described at times as "the Faith." We are to trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Temporal faith does not save. It is not trusting Jesus for eternal life. Temporal faith is about the here and now, temporary. And then there's intellectual faith. Many have this kind of faith. They know intellectually who Jesus is and can even tell you the gospel, but they are not trusting in Jesus Christ alone to give them eternal life. James says in James 2:19: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

Jesus had and spoke with a direct authority over the spiritual realm that had an impact in the natural and physical realm. Saving faith flows from Him. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12) Our words then flow with conviction inasmuch and to the extent that we are aligned to the will and Word of God. Believe what Jesus believes.

Again, what we learn from having faith in God or the God-kind of faith is to seek God and find out His will. We align our hearts and minds to His. This is going to take some study. This means we have to know our scriptures; we have to rightly divide the Word of God, to find out God's will, not what we think His will is. God's will is revealed in His Word and the Holy Spirit will illumine our minds to that word of God and God's will. His command must become our heart's desire. "Henceforth to do Thy will O Lord" needs to be one of our highest desires. We ask to align with His will, His mind, His heart. Then we speak to the material, physical realm on earth what God has determined in heaven. And we are not to doubt. Believe in the Promise. Remember the faith of Abraham, Romans 4. And let's remember this principle - **you have what you say. Believe and you will see. Believe—it is going to happen—that which you have received—it will be granted.**

Mark 11:20-26. Jesus was hungry as He passed a fig tree. He expected to find something on it, fruit, since it had leaves. He found nothing. He cursed the fig tree. The next morning He and His disciples passed by that fig tree and it had dried up from the roots. Jesus had spiritual authority and all knowledge. He had power and authority. He has what He says. He believes and thus receives.

Sin is seen as a debt note. We have a mountain of sin and are in need of forgiveness. Jesus had gone into the Temple to cleanse the Temple. His house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. Jesus came to bear sin, to be sin-bearer, curse-bearer, bearer of the wrath of God, bearer

of the Glory. Because of who He is and what He has accomplished in the finished work of the Cross, our sin can be forgiven. Like that mountain, it can be cast into the sea.

God is God-who-forgives. Had the ruling religious leaders believed, their huge debt note of sin could be forgiven, legally and judicially. Jesus cleansed the Temple; cursed the fig tree. Spoke about faith. Believe Jesus, who He is and the redemptive work He accomplished. Move from “stranded stray to the royal redeemed.” Believe the promise. Believe your sins are forgiven because of the Righteous One, without doubting. Pray. Ask. Believe. No doubt. See. Receive.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:18, 19 ESV

Read all of Micah 7. It is relevant to right now.

And then Jesus closes in Mark 11:25, 26:

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. “But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.” Amen.

Jesus speaks to those who know God as Father and not just God as Judge. Forgive as Christ has forgiven you. (Cf. Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:17-32) Survive in the Kingdom of God. And to those laboring in the Lord:

For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Hebrews 6:10-15 NKJV

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