

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?

Genesis 21:17-18

And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, *What aileth thee, Hagar?* fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he *is*. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.

I. Uncompromising faith and confidence IN GOD is always rewarded.

In this verse of Scripture we have another questions of God. God knew Hagar's situation. He knew she and her child had been put out of their home and had been wandering in the wilderness and that now they were out of food and water. Their immediate situation looked hopeless. Hagar had placed the child under a bush and had moved some distant away and had given up, waiting for death to come.

God speaks to Hagar from heaven saying, "What aileth thee, Hagar," *to bring her back to reality.*

You see the reality was not that she and the child were going to die in the wilderness. **The reality was that God had promised Abraham that because Ishmael was his son that Ishmael would become a great nation.**

Then God tells her "*fear not*" and in verse 18 reminds Hagar of that promise.

Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; *for I will make him a great nation.*

I know there are situations and problems that arise in the lives of God's children, in your life, that seem hopeless and you just want to give up and give in to the problem. Some of you are facing some difficult times right now. And God, like He did with Hagar, is asking you, "What aileth you?" "**WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM**" not because He doesn't know what your immediate situation is but He is asking you "What is your problem?" *to bring you back to reality.* Back to the REALITY, as seen in the following Scriptures.

Romans 1:17, "The just shall live by faith."

2 Corinthians 5:7, "we walk by faith, not by sight."

Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

The reality that God wants you to see and be reminded of is, *uncompromising faith is always rewarded.*

This message resounds loud and clear from every page of God's Word. From Genesis to Malachi - From Matthew to Revelation. **UNCOMPROMISING FAITH IS ALWAYS REWARDED.**

This uncompromising faith is described in Heb. 11:33-37.

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute,

afflicted, tormented;

The key line in these dynamic verses on faith is the last half of verse 35.

" . . . not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:"

They did not accept deliverance. In other words, they could have spared themselves physical torture and death by torture simply by compromising - giving up on their faith.

Oh let us understand, ***There is no victory in compromise!!*** On the other hand, ***There is no defeat in Faith!!*** The direct onslaught by satan and all his evil forces CANNOT defeat the power of uncompromising faith.

No one who has ever placed a problem in the hands of God and trusted in him absolutely as the source of their total supply has received less than God's best for him. ***No problem is unsolvable and no fear is unconquerable.***

I know that the needs of some of you are pressing and the challenge to your faith is real. But God, your Father is speaking to you today, asking you, **"What is your problem?"**

The reality is that God is on the throne, and uncompromising faith will see you through to victory. Amen.

Our Father God, would remind us that in the situations and problems that arise in our lives, that the seemingly hopelessness of the situation is not reality. The reality is that we who are the children of God through the new birth in Jesus Christ ***WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.*** The reality that God wants us to see ***uncompromising faith and confidence in God that is always rewarded.***

I would now like to share with you the story of perhaps the greatest exercise of faith in the OT and my personal heroes. **THE THREE HEBREW CHILDREN in the Book of Daniel.**

These 3 Hebrew children were in a life and death situation. If they compromised their faith and bowed down to the statue of Nebuchadnezzar they would live but if they did not they would be cast into the fiery furnace.

Their uncompromising faith and confidence in God is seen in their answer to Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 3:17

"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."

They were absolutely confident that their God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace and that he would deliver them out of the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

Our Father God wants us to know without doubt, having absolute confidence in the REALITY that He, the God we serve, ***IS ABLE TO DELIVER US OUT OF ANY SITUATION THAT COMES INTO OUR LIFE AND THAT HE WILL WITHOUT FAIL DELIVER US FROM THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMY.***

Uncompromising faith and confidence in God is always rewarded.

II. Uncompromising faith and confidence in WHO GOD IS, is always rewarded.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

He that cometh to God must believe that HE IS. That is to say, must believe that God is who He says He is. He is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the Creator and Sustainer of this universe and all that is therein. And because God is Who He says He is, He will always act according to His attributes/character.

Let's review some of the attributes of God.

And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the

LORD, the everlasting God. (Genesis 21:33 AV)

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; (John 5:26 AV)

For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Malachi 3:6 AV)

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: (Jeremiah 32:17 AV)

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (John 21:17 AV)

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? (Psalms 139:7 AV)

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isaiah 57:15 AV)

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16 AV)

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou *art* a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. (Jonah 4:2 AV)

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9 AV)

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Numbers 23:19 AV)

From these Scriptures we see and understand, GOD IS . . .

from ever-lasting to everlasting, that is to say, God always was and always will be;

the essence of life, Himself being life and giving life;

unchangeable, He always was and always will be the same;

omnipotent, He is all powerful/having all power;

omniscient, He knows all things;

omnipresent, He is present everywhere at the same time.

holy;

love;

gracious, merciful, slow to anger, kind, takes no pleasure in punishing/correcting;

faithful; and

God is trustworthy (He cannot lie).

This then is the God of the Bible, the God in which we can have absolute uncompromising faith and confidence.

III. Because of WHO GOD IS, we can have UNCOMPROMISING FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD.

God, our God **BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS, is ABLE TO BRING INTO REALITY** in the lives of his children all that He has promised in His Word, even as He made Ishmel a great nation as he promised Abraham.

Likewise, NOT only is God able, BUT, He also desires to do so, and therefore is **WILLING. And because He is willing He WILL** rewarded those who with uncompromising faith and confidence are trusting him to bring about the fulfillment of His Word in their lives according to their need.

Luke 1:45, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told he from the Lord."

Philippians 4:19, ". . . my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

2 Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in Him (that is in Jesus) are yea, and in him amen, to the glory of God by us."

BLESSED are they who **BELIEVED . . .** for God will without fail bring His Word to pass in that persons life.

ALL your need according to his **RICHES** in glory

YEA . . . AMEN!!!!

to the **GLORY OF GOD** by us. When the promises of God become a reality in our lives we are glorifying God.

FIRSTLY, we understand and believe that because of **Who God is**, He (God) is **ABLE AND THAT HE WILL PERFORM** ACCORDING TO HIS WORD.

SECONDLY, we understand and believe **THAT UNCOMPROMISING FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND IN HIS SPOKEN WORD** on the part of those who have this uncompromising faith and confidence **WILL** bring about the performance of that Word of God into their lives according to their need.

THIRDLY, we understand and receive by faith that all of the **PROMISES OF GOD** are inherently and intrinsically **WHO GOD IS** as seen in the names of God and especially in the **COMPOUND NAMES OF GOD**.

GOD IS:

Jehovah Tsidkenu, Lord our Righteousness, Jeremiah 23:6;

Jehovah M'kaddesh, Lord our Sanctifier, Leviticus 20:8

Jehovah Rapha, Lord our Healer, Exodus 15:26;

Jehovah Jirah, Lord our Provider, Genesis 22:14;

Jehovah Shalom, Lord our Peace, Judges 6:24;

Jehovah Rohi, Lord our Shepherd, Psalm 23:1;

Jehovah Nissj, Lord our Banner; Exodus 17:15;

Jehovah Shammah, The Lord is there, Ezekiel 48:35.

All the promise of God are fulfilled and bear fruit in the believers life in these Compound names Jesus through uncompromising faith and confidence in God.

WHAT IS YOUR NEED:

IV. THE KEY to having/exercising uncompromising faith and confidence in God that will be rewarded.

The KEY to having/exercising uncompromising faith and confidence in God that will be rewarded is **TWOFOLD**.

Hebrews 11:6 ". . . He is a rewarder of them **WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**"

Daniel 3:17, ". . . our God whom **WE SERVE . . .**"

A. When we are **DILIGENTLY SEEKING GOD** and when we are **SERVING HIM** we can have absolute confidence and uncompromising faith that will be rewarded.

To diligently seek God is to have the hunger and thirst for God as expressed by King David in Psalm 63:1

O God, thou *art* my God; early will I **seek** thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

This hunger and thirst will compel us to seek God earnestly and diligently in prayer and in His Word.

B. The second aspect of the key that will make it possible for us to have uncompromising faith in God, is **SERVING HIM**.

Even as the Hebrew children said with absolute faith and confidence. "... our God whom **WE SERVE ...**" **WILL deliver us out of thine hand, O King**"

Those who seeking God and **SERVING HIM** will have uncompromising faith that will be rewarded in the day of trouble.

1. QUESTION: When are you **SERVING GOD**?

Colossians 3:17-24, And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: ***for ye serve the Lord Christ.***

You are **SERVING** God when, whatever you do in the name of Jesus, heartily as unto the Lord, and not seeking a rewarded from your efforts but knowing that you will be rewarded by God IS SERVING THE LORD. In other words ***when we are serving others we are serving God.***

2. QUESTION: What does serving involve?

a. First of all involves **developing an attitude of serving.**

Ephesians 5:21, **Submitting** yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Romans 12:10, Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour **preferring** one another;

Philippians 2:3, Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem** other better than themselves.

1 Peter 5:5, Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be **clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Galatians 5:13, For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve** one another.

The attitude of serving we need to develop is then an attitude of

submitting yourselves one to another, that is finding your place under your brothers and sister in the Lord.

preferring other, that is putting others and their needs before yourself and your needs.

esteem other better than yourself, that is giving those, your brother and sisters in the Lord, to whom you are submitted their due honor and respect as ones over you.

being clothed in humility is to NOT think too highly of yourself, but to consider yourself a servant.

by love serve one another, when our attitude of serving is one of love then we will serve unselfishly, self-sacrificingly and self-denyingly.

This attitude of serving then is one of seeing yourself as a servant. It is serving others by:

being subject to them and their needs. It is looking for opportunities to serve;

love and not just out of a sense of duty;

placing the needs of others before your own needs.

b. Secondly, to serve involves **NOT BEING SELECTIVE** in your serving.

Here let us be reminded that in the life of a believer there are different areas in which we are to serve and that we are to serve in each of these areas according to our position in a given area. These areas of servitude for the child of God are the **HOME; the CHURCH; and the COMMUNITY/STATE/NATION/WORLD** in which they live.

When we are **DILIGENTLY SEEKING GOD** and when we are **SERVING HIM** we can have absolute confidence and uncompromising faith that will be rewarded.

What is your problem, your need, your situation? Your uncompromising faith and confidence in God, in God's promises and in who He is, as you seek Him and that faith being exercised by love for the brethren, will always be rewarded according to your need.

The reality is that God is on the throne, and uncompromising faith will see you through to victory. Amen.