

Considering the Loaves

I recently had the need to phone 911 due to a downed live power wire that was across the road and side walk near my house.

The very first question I was asked by the 911 operator was “Do I need Police, Fire or Ambulance?”

Good question... to address the need correctly she needed to know what assistance she should deploy.

Well that’s life... we always need to know these same two things:

1. What we are dealing with...
2. What team or solution we should use to resolve it...

In life a failure to recognize what we are up against or a failure to call the correct response team just wastes our time and efforts.

So what does this mean to me in my daily Christian life? How do I take what I see in the Bible pertaining to life as Promises or Instructions and then apply God’s Power to my own life for the victory?

To answer this question let’s look at a life lesson Jesus taught us in Mark and see how it applies to our lives in the here and now.

Mark 6:45-50 (AMP)

⁴⁵ And at once He (Jesus) insisted that the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He was sending the throng away.

Key Point One:

The disciples knew Jesus’ instruction or direction for them to complete a task or assignment. The same applies to us in our lives. We need to know what the will or word of God is before we look to have a God Promise or faith application to effect a change.

⁴⁶ And after He had taken leave of them, He went off into the hills to pray.

⁴⁷ Now when evening had come, the boat was out in the middle of the lake, and He was by Himself on the land.

⁴⁸ And having seen that they were troubled and tormented in [their] rowing, for the wind was against them, about the fourth watch of the night [between 3:00-6:00 a.m.] He came to them, walking [directly] on the sea. And He acted as if He meant to pass by them,

It is important to note two things in this verse:

Key Point Two:

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The disciples did not recognize the true problem and were using only their own efforts to complete the assignment of Jesus. Even with all these tormented efforts they were still losing the battle.

The question must be asked... why were they failing, it was clearly God's Will for them to cross the water? The fact is, even while doing the Lord's work you can come up against the wind of satan's counterattack... in fact you should expect it. Expect a spiritual attack that in using only earthly efforts to resolve it will fail.

I call this dealing with a symptom versus resolving the cause of the problem.

Key Point Three:

Jesus knew the problem and was near but until they connected with Him they remained on their own in their efforts to complete the trip across the water.

Remember, God always respects our choices and even though He is Omni Present, He will stand by if we fail to make the connection with His Power or Authority... but also instantly respond if we cry out!

⁴⁹ But when they saw Him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and raised a [deep, throaty] shriek of terror.

⁵⁰ For they all saw Him and were agitated (troubled and filled with fear and dread). But immediately He (Jesus) talked with them and said, Take heart! I AM! Stop being alarmed *and* afraid.

Switching translations for clarity... The Amplified uses "I AM" but I see the most common wording in the different versions is "It is I". I have selected the New King James Version as an example. But no matter what version you select, it is always the same message no matter what the phrasing is.

Mark 6:50 (NKJV)

⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

See Jesus' immediate instructions to His disciples, "Take Heart! I AM or It is I! Stop being alarmed and afraid."

- Notice again there was no delay in Jesus' response to their cries
- Notice His first instruction to them was to make a heart choice to dominate fear because God was near!
- Notice Jesus responded to their needs immediately and when there was time... then taught or rebuked them

Key Point Four:

As we live our lives, we are also to take heart and acknowledge we are always with "I AM" as we deal with our challenges. We are to choose life over death (Deuteronomy30: 19) and to make the heart

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choice to stop being alarmed and afraid!!! It is a choice we have the power to make or God would not tell us to do it.

For our understanding please note this is not the first time we have heard Jesus instruct somebody to make this choice. Let's go back to the story of Jairus in the previous chapter of Mark for a moment when he had just heard the report that his daughter had died. Jesus was very clear to him to make a proper choice and remain fear free while he trusted God.

Mark 5:35-36 (AMP)

³⁵ While He was still speaking, there came some from the ruler's house, who said [to Jairus], Your daughter has died. Why bother *and* distress the Teacher any further?

³⁶ Overhearing but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing.

Just like Jairus, you have in the middle of any challenge, a Higher Spiritual Force to tap into for help. God said he desires to be our God and we are to be His people for a reason.

Jeremiah 32:38 (AMP)

³⁸ And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 37:26-28 (AMP)

²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will give blessings to them and multiply them and will set My sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.

²⁷ My tabernacle *or* dwelling place also shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

²⁸ Then the nations shall know, understand, *and* realize that I the Lord do set apart *and* consecrate Israel for holy use, when My sanctuary shall be in their midst forevermore.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (AMP)

¹⁶ What agreement [can there be between] a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

¹⁷ So, come out from among [unbelievers], and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and touch not [any] unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly *and* treat you with favor,

¹⁸ And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

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Notice the “I will” statements?

Notice the fact we are to be God’s children and not slaves or a relationship based on works? As children we have been freely given... provision, protection and a family name to use the moment we are born (again)?

So while we complete the God assignment for our lives and have to deal with satan’s attacks. God does not want us to ever try to do it alone but as a family!

To support this statement further, let’s look at some examples where a man needed to go to God while in the presence of danger to receive a Promise of God.

a. Moses:

Moses was expected to need to make a connection with Jehovah and together they were to complete the deliverance of the People of God from their captivity in Egypt.

Exodus 3:11, 14 (AMP)

¹¹ And Moses said to God, Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

Do you hear the unbelief and inability to complete this assignment in his words?

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM and WHAT I AM, and I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; and He said, You shall say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you!

... And say “I AM” has sent you... Moses was to obey God and fully expect God to support the efforts no matter what the enemy did to stop him in his God assignment or in this case what the fellow people of God thought.

b. Joshua

Joshua has just seen Moses who had lead the Israelite people for decades die and now was alone in looking at the taking of the Promised Land. Joshua was going to need to put his trust in God and walk on enemy soil.

Joshua 1:3 (AMP)

³ Every place upon which the sole of your foot shall tread, that have I given to you, as I promised Moses.

But Joshua was NOT to complete this hike alone and in fact God clearly states He would go with him. That is if he “feared not”!

Joshua 1:9 (AMP)

⁹ Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

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Certainly strength would be needed to complete this and therefore God provided instructions to Joshua on how to access His might.

Joshua 1:7-8 (AMP)

⁷ Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe *and* do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely *and* have good success.

In our life and when we are facing something greater than what we can handle... the same instruction applies to our own life... that is if we want to use God's Power in the battle with satan.

c. Boy David:

Another famous Bible story with the LORD (or I AM) present in it is David in battle with Goliath. It is a great example of a boy who needed to connect God's power for a man's efforts.

1 Samuel 17:37, 45 (AMP)

³⁷ David said, The LORD Who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you!

Later on in battle David repeated this to Goliath... David very clearly expected to receive God's help!

⁴⁵ Then said David to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, Whom you have defied.

David came at Goliath with the Lord of Hosts... Jehovah, Elohiym or I AM... these are all the same Higher Spiritual Power we have access to for victory over satan.

1 Samuel 17:46 (AMP) *My personal favourite saying of David!*

⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head. And I will give the corpses of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

Notice the declaration that David would cut off Goliath's head... the only sword around was on Goliath's hip and yet that is just what happened!

d. David as King... *I have added this example because I can see myself making an assumption I already knew God's instruction which would have been an error. I can see where I would have failed to go back to ask God for His instruction the second time around!*

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The situation is King David has just found out the Philistines had invaded the land.

Read 2 Samuel 5:17-25 (AMP)

¹⁹ David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand? And the Lord said to David, Go up, for I will surely deliver [them] into your hand.

David did as instructed and with the Lord the battle was won.

A short time later the Philistines returned and history says in greater force. David knew the will of God was to remove them and yet did not make any assumptions. David stopped to pray and find out if God's instruction had changed. He was given a new set of instructions and again had a victory with the Lord's help.

²² The Philistines came up again and spread themselves out in the Valley of Rephaim.

²³ When David inquired of the Lord, He said, You shall not go up, but go around behind them and come upon them over opposite the mulberry (or balsam) trees.

In returning to Mark 6, let's finish where Jesus shows us the disciple's failure so we can see how we are to apply God's Power to our life.

Mark 6:51-52 (AMP)

⁵¹ And He went up into the boat with them, and the wind ceased (sank to rest as if exhausted by its own beating). And they were astonished exceedingly [beyond measure],

Why were they exceedingly astonished?

⁵² For they failed to consider or understand [the teaching and meaning of the miracle of] the loaves; [in fact] their hearts had grown callous [had become dull and had lost the power of understanding].

To recap the disciples were in a battle for their lives... but fought solely by themselves because they had a hardened heart and failed to consider or understand the teaching of the loaves. Let's go back to where they saw the teaching of Jesus to see what they missed.

As you go through this I suggest you ask the Holy Spirit to quicken the Word in your heart and help you to "not have a hardened heart" that fails to receive the Promises in your life.

Mark 6:31-34 (AMP)

The disciples and Jesus had gone to a deserted isolated and barren place in verse 31 and 32

³³ Now many [people] saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the surrounding towns, and they got there ahead [of those in the boat].

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³⁴ As Jesus landed, He saw a great crowd waiting, and He was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.

The great crowd had found them and now after ministry it had become late... too late for their safe return without food.

See how the disciples interrupted the teaching to bring the food shortage news flash to Jesus? They stopped everything and acted as if Jesus didn't realize the situation. What amazes me is they even dared to then give Jesus some instructions to follow to resolve this situation. The problem was they really didn't provide any solution and instead just left the people on their own to fend for themselves.

Mark 6:35-36 (AMP)

³⁵ And when the day was already far gone, His disciples came to Him and said, This is a desolate *and* isolated place, and the hour is now late.

³⁶ Send the crowds away to go into the country and villages roundabout and buy themselves something to eat.

³⁷ But He replied to them, Give them something to eat yourselves. And they said to Him, Shall we go and buy 200 denarii [about forty dollars] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?

The disciples tried to figure out how they could complete the task through their own efforts. The fact is, I've done the math... if the 12 disciples walked to a nearby town (which they were not near); able to find a bakery that had food ready (for a random 5000 people); and walk back in a timeframe that had any benefit... the weight of the minimum amount of food for 5000 men would still have been around 80-90 pounds (40 kg) per disciple. Forget about having money... that idea wasn't going to work!

Jesus on the other hand saw the need and then stopped to listen to God's instruction. Jesus knew the reality of the limitations and knew that God's solution this time would include a miracle. They were about to see a miracle that the disciples would have with their own hands as they handed out the supply of food.

³⁸ And He said to them, How many loaves do you have? Go and see. And when they [had looked and] knew, they said, Five [loaves] and two fish.

Jesus was teaching them Heavenly instruction meant they were also Heavenly empowered to go to God for their solutions. Therefore, when He said to them to "feed the people themselves", they should have looked beyond their impossible limitations and into the Promises of God for help.

⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to heaven and, praising God, gave thanks and broke the loaves and kept on giving them to the disciples to set before the people; and He [also] divided the two fish among [them] all.

⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.

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⁴³ And they took up twelve [small hand] baskets full of broken pieces [from the loaves] and of the fish.

⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were 5,000 men

Let's look again at the steps Jesus did:

- **Jesus went to God (John 5:19)... praised Him and gave thanks over the gift He received of food**
- **Jesus then expected God to add to the efforts to meet the need before them**
- **A victory for the very same need that He instructed the disciples "Give them something to eat yourselves."**

The disciples had a firsthand eye witness of using God's Power to complete an assignment or instruction.

So when God instructs you to live Holy, walk in Love, be a Priest to your family or pay your tithes to the church... He also expects you to consider the loaves when you encounter this or any other challenge.

Just like Moses did. Just like Joshua did. Just like David did. And of course just like Jesus did!

Remember Jesus Himself tells us that without God He was powerless to do the work!

John 5:19 (AMP)

¹⁹ So Jesus answered them by saying, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the Son is able to do nothing of Himself (of His own accord); but He is able to do only what He sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father does is what the Son does in the same way [in His turn].

John 6:29 (AMP)

²⁹ Jesus replied, This is the work (service) that God asks of you: that you believe in the One Whom He has sent [that you cleave to, trust, rely on, and have faith in His Messenger].

Mark 11:2-24 (AMP)

²² And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly].

²³ Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.

²⁴ For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].

So have you heard God's instruction for you or seen a Promise in the Bible you really need and yet are still trying to serve God without going to and receiving His help?

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If so... stop and consider the loaves... or do you suffer from a hardened heart like the disciples did?

Bonus section:

1. What are the names of God we can call on in times of need? Well the names of God identify what solutions are accessed through that name.

Jesus said: “Stop and Take heart! I AM! Stop being alarmed *and* afraid. God is with you!”

God has many names that can be deployed and not just the three I heard on the 911 option list: Police, Fire or Ambulance...

Some of God’s names that we can connect with:

- Jireh... The Lord My Provider
- M’Kaddesh... The Lord My Sanctifier
- Nissi... The Lord My Banner of Victory
- Rophe... The Lord My Health
- Shalom... The Lord My Peace and Wholeness
- Tsidkenu... The Lord My Righteousness
- Rohi... The Lord My Shepherd
- Shammah... God Is There
- Tsebaoth... The Lord of Hosts
- Makkeh... The Lord Who Molds Me
- Gmolah... The Lord Who Rewards
- Abba Father

Of course to access the family name that He has given to us, we also have to know His will for us as stated in the Bible or the Holy Testament.

John 10:10 (AMP)

¹⁰The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

3 John 2 (AMP)

²Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well *and* prospers.

And when we find ourselves in a challenge... Paul said to look at it this way!

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (AMP)

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⁶ For God Who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty *and* glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of *Jesus* Christ (the Messiah).

⁷ However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur *and* exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves.

Paul is telling us again that without the knowledge and glory of God in our hearts, we are not able to do anything. This of course is why God instructed Joshua to continue to meditate in the Word day and night. So that he, like us, are able to do what we have been instructed.

Paul also points out that we need to get ready to demonstrate the Glory of God while in impossible situations and while in our frail bodies. This is so the world can see the victory is through the Lord.... and not of ourselves.

Solutions that work in a time of need are our lives shining out the Light of God for the world to see.

2. Further on Paul and Grace:

Paul is an often misunderstood man when it comes to dealing with satan's attacks. Let's walk through that Biblical record to see what was really going to resolve any confusion.

While we look at this, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see if this is occurring in your life. Place yourself in the verses and see if you are like Paul asking questions when you are having a challenge greater than you can fix alone. Go now to your memory and ask yourself if you failed to consider the loaves like the disciples and Paul did.

Just like the disciples who did see the need, which is good, and did go to Jesus, which is also good. Paul at first failed to make a Heavenly connection to solve his problem. He was asking God to do what God had given him the Power to address in Jesus' name. Paul just needed to step up and stop having a hardened heart!

Just like Paul did and was told "My Grace is sufficient for you."

Let's review the verses again and look for God's help in a time of need.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NKJV)

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Satan did not want Paul to share his exceeding great revelations and was trying to stop him by knocking him down at all times. Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:4 for more on how the same word "exalted" or in Greek "hyperairō" is used.

⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

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⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (AMP)

⁹ But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!

To repeat for clarity:

Paul was going to God for help but God had already given him the Godly Power to deal with the situation himself. Paul, like the disciples who had failed to consider the loaves, just needed to exercise the God given Authority and Dominion over satan’s attacks and finish the assignment.

Unlike the disciples Paul did not live three years with Jesus. But Paul was a mighty scholar before he became a Christian and knew the stories of Old Testament that were to be his examples. Paul also was taught by Jesus Himself (Galatians 1:12) and knew the purpose of Grace for man’s dominion over satan.

Let’s review some of what would have been lesson material so we can see Paul’ error.

Luke 10:18-19 (AMP)

¹⁸ And He said to them, I saw Satan falling like a lightning [flash] from heaven.

¹⁹ Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.

God knew Paul knew that he had the authority to use over all of satan’s attacks.

Are you still stuck on the religious teaching about Paul’s thorn and what did it mean when he was told “My Grace is sufficient for you”? Let’s look to what else Paul said about attacks of satan and getting close to God for deliverance. This is from the same 2 Corinthians scripture just earlier in the letter.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (AMP)

⁸ For we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about the affliction and oppressing distress which befell us in [the province of] Asia, how we were so utterly and unbearably weighed down and crushed that we despaired even of life [itself].

⁹ Indeed, we felt within ourselves that we had received the [very] sentence of death, but that was to keep us from trusting in and depending on ourselves instead of on God Who raises the dead.

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¹⁰ [For it is He] Who rescued *and* saved us from such a perilous death, and He will still rescue *and* save us; in *and* on Him we have set our hope (our joyful and confident expectation) that He will again deliver us [from danger and destruction and draw us to Himself],

Drawing near to God are the same lovely words Jesus told the disciples while they were in dire situations and fear. “Take heart! I AM! Stop being alarmed *and* afraid.”

Lastly, Paul takes his hard learned lesson and gives it to us so we can also know how to deal with satan and his attacks.

Ephesians 6:11-18 (NIV)

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

¹⁵ And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Just like Paul and the disciples, we are told to look beyond our own efforts to complete the assignment Jesus has given. We all are to know that we are defeated except for God and His Promises that we are expected to use!

3. Your challenge:

We are not to live our lives alone and without help. In fact the Father has sent us the Holy Spirit to be that teacher, strengthener, helper, or standby that we need.

John 14:11-18 (AMP)

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¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me; or else believe Me for the sake of the [very] works themselves. [If you cannot trust Me, at least let these works that I do in My Father's name convince you.]

¹² I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

¹³ And I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified *and* extolled in (through) the Son.

¹⁴ [Yes] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM].

¹⁵ If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—

¹⁷ The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know *and* recognize Him. But you know *and* recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans [comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless]; I will come [back] to you.

These verses are a good recap of all we have spoken about and I leave you with these final thoughts.

It is all about a relationship with God and knowing we are in His family.

God's Grace (not works) is sufficient for us all... that is when we don't have a hardened heart that fails to consider the loaves...

So in a challenge use the next two verses and tap into what God has already provided for you to win.

John 15:4 (AMP)

⁴ Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.

Matthew 19:26 (AMP)

²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, With men this is impossible, but all things are possible with God.