

FAITH UNDER FIRE

“With God all things are possible”

Friends, some months ago, I gave a message entitled “The Coming Global Reset” in which I presented information highlighting the fact, that our nation, if not the entire western world is near the precipice of complete economic, if not social collapse as well.

At that time, I further stated that my purpose for sharing that information was not to be a fear monger, but rather to bring to light, the lateness of the hour. And also to underscore why we will all need a full measure of faith, in order to preserve our souls.

For in 1 Pet.1.3-6 it is written; 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this “we should” greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, “we are” grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of our faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is {and I will add will continue to be]tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Verse 9, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

In these verses we see that faith is foundational for our salvation. This truth is clearly underscored for us in Hebrews 11.6. Where it is written; that without faith it is impossible to please God.

So with this in mind. Today, I thought I would, do a followup message, by addressing the subject of faith. For it is something that I believe a lot of us struggle with, myself included. So I’m giving this message today, for my own edification. And it is my hope and desire that all of you, may derive some benefit from it as well.

Faith as we know from Gal. 5, is one of the fruit of the spirit. Interestingly, this same Greek word that is translated as fruit of the spirit in Gal.5, is also used numerous times regarding fruit that is grown on trees.

The Septuagint also uses the word in relation to offspring, as in the fruit of ones loins. Thus we see, that in both instances, the fruit produced comes from a tree or a person that has reached a certain level of maturity.

Regarding the fruit of the spirit. Faith then, should be a natural result of our Christian development. And so it must be. For as I just quoted from Hebrews 11 verse 6, “that without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that God exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

Lets be reminded also that in Gal. 5, the fruit of the spirit is singular. The scripture does not use the word fruits, plural, rather the singular term fruit. Meaning that all of us that possess God’s spirit, have been given the ability by God to develop all of these attributes; love, joy, peace, faith ect.

This understanding should be contrasted with the subject of spiritual gifts, such as is found in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12. In which it is explained that God gives different gifts, to individuals as He deems beneficial for the church at large.

So the distinction I’m trying to make, is that all true Christians have the ability to develop the faith which is required for salvation, since it is a fruit of the spirit and not an individual gift.

Now, let me just preface that statement by pointing out, that God’s Spirit is of course also a gift from God.

I guess the distinction I’m trying to convey, is that the fruit of the spirit, is a natural result of growing to Christian maturity, just as a mature fruit tree also bears fruit. And therefore God expects us to develop these Godly attributes, since He has given us His Spirit.

Whereas, spiritual gifts such as ministry, prophecy, or healing are given selectively by God as He deems appropriate.

Now why we might ask, is faith important? Well, as we covered earlier in Hebrews 11.6, that without faith it is impossible to please God. And why we might ask, is that so?

I believe that what is evident, in fact is the predominant theme from reading Hebrews chapter 11, is that faith is essential for our salvation. For faith is both a motivating force, as well as a strengthening agent, to fortify us with inner spiritual strength.

Thus giving us the ability, to stand up against the evil forces that are present in this world in which we live.

That is why the Apostle Paul, in Eph. chapter 6, and verse 16 uses the phrase shield of faith with which we will be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Faith gives us the ability to stand fast and to cast off all fear and doubt, which would be humanly impossible without it. For with God, all things are possible, as is written in Mark 9.23. Wherein Jesus states in relation to the subject of faith, that “If you believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

Friends, what I would like to do today, is to implant this thought that “All things are possible to him who believes.” deeply within your minds. This will be the underlying theme of the bulk of this message today.

And in reference to those fiery darts, that Paul speaks of in Eph. 6. I believe that they will come with increasing frequency and take many forms in the days, months and years that are directly in front of us.

For as we read in Matt. 24. 21-22

21 For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were limited, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be limited.

I believe that we often read over these verses, without fully grasping the magnitude to what Christ is telling us. Which is the fact that, the events that will transpire in the near future, will be without comparison with any other time in history.

And that unless Jesus Christ intervenes, ALL LIFE on earth would perish. That is almost too unconceivable to contemplate, when you try to envision that sheer magnitude of the devastation it implies.

So understanding that our faith will be tested to the very limits, in the events leading up to this time like no other in all of human history, I have entitled my message today “Faith Under Fire” Subtitled “With God all things are possible”

Let’s first cover some foundational principles and promises from God that we can absolutely rely upon, and thus will help us in developing and retaining a rock solid faith. I’m going read several passages, and then I’ll sum them up with a little commentary.

John 10. 27-29

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.

Eph. 1.13-14 In Christ you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the guarantee of our inheritance until our eternal redemption.

1 John 4.13 “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit”

Rom. 11.29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Phil. 1.6 “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ”

And Luke 12.32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”

Friends these are just a few verses, that absolutely confirm God’s unceasing love and total commitment to us and for us. As we see in Eph. 1, God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the guarantee of our eternal salvation.

So we have God’s spirit not only as a guarantee, but as we read in 1 John 4, it is the living evidence that God is dwelling within us, and that we are therefore very special to Him. For our calling and God’s promise of salvation is irrevocable!

God promises to stand with us, as long as we stand with Him. He will never leave us nor forsake us, as long as we do not forsake Him.

But as we know, Jesus Christ Himself, looking down through time, also questioned the faith of His Church. In Luke 18. verses 7 and 8 Jesus promises that God the Father will indeed hear and respond to His own elect who cry out day and night to Him.

In verse 8, He states that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

And so, it is up to us individually, to make our calling and election sure, by developing the faith that is required for salvation.

Therefore the question remains, just how do we cultivate our faith? I believe the bible shows us two specific ways. The first is to pray to God to help us to develop and strengthen our faith.

And the second way, is found in Romans 10.17 Where it is written that "Faith comes by hearing, or in our case reading the word of God"

So that's what I would like to focus on for the bulk of my message today. Let's go through the bible, and focus on scriptures that have purposely been preserved for us, to develop and strengthen our faith.

Verses that underscore the theme, that with God, ALL THINGS are possible!

So let's turn our attention now, on some faith building accounts found in the scriptures.

And the point that I hope to drive home, is that God has complete control over His physical creation, and thus with God all things are indeed, truly possible.

Let's look at some clear examples of this fact.

Josh. 3. 7-17

7 And the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

8 You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, “Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God.”

10 And Joshua said, “By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

Brethren, note that there are 7 distinct groups of sinful people that God was going to displace and destroy, by and through the Israelites. In understanding that 7 is God’s number of completion, I believe that these 7 physical nations are symbolic of all of the sins that we must prevail over, in order to inherit the spiritual promised land.

A parallel being the 7 Days of Unleavened Bread, which also underscore God’s requirement that we completely separate ourselves from sin. Continuing in verse 11

11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

12 Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.

13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap.”

14 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,

15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan.

So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Friends, think about this for a moment, here we have described a mighty river at flood stage, overflowing its banks, and God simply stops the river from flowing, so much so, that the entire nation walked across, as if it were dry land.

Just like when Israel had crossed the Red Sea. I want you to picture a river in your minds, and your standing on the edge of the river, say like the Mississippi, and then imagine that it just stopped flowing, as if an invisible dam, had been placed there.

Or your at the beach, and your looking out over the vast ocean, and suddenly the water just divides, so that you could just walk for a mile or more with the high walls of water on both sides of you.

Friends consider, that we read these factual accounts often, but do we really stop and picture the events really happening as if we were there?

Since we are thinking about God's ability to control vast amounts of water. Let's turn to Matt.8 and read of how easy it is for God to control all physical circumstances.

Matt. 8.23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

These verses underscore the fact that since God Created the entire physical universe, He certainly has complete mastery over it. This great tempest, which was probably near hurricane force winds, that were driving the great waves, instantly began a great calm, like a lake without a ripple, but Jesus simply speaking mere words.

Continuing on the theme of God's ability to control all the forces in the universe, let's turn to Joshua chapter 10, verses 12-14

12 “Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley.”

13 So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

14 And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel.

These scriptures inform us, that God not only can stop the flow of mighty rivers, and mighty winds and raging seas, He can also stop the rotation of the entire planet.

Let’s look at another one. 2 Kings 20. 9-11

9 Then Isaiah said, “This is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?”

10 And Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees.”

11 So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the Lord, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

Brethren, please consider these scriptures in which we see that God in the first instance stopped both the earth and the moon from moving in the heavens. And then here in 2 Kings 20, God not only stopped the earth from moving, but actually reversed the rotation of the earth.

Just think of it, God changed the movement of the entire planet at the request of one of his saints.

So again, these scriptures inform us, that God as the Creator of the entire physical universe, has complete and total control over it, and thus has the ability to provide and protect us under any and all circumstances.

Jonah chapter 1.1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah saying,

2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

4 But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, “Why have you done this?” For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

12 And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me.”

17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2.1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish’s belly.

2 And he said: “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction,
And He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
And You heard my voice.

3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

4 Then I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight;
Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me;
Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed
behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit,
O Lord, my God.

7 “When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord;
And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.

Verse 9

But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving;
I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”

10 So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

This is a story that although is often mentioned, I don't believe has been given enough deep consideration. In your minds eye, try placing yourself inside the stomach of this whale or fish.

And consider the fact that you are in complete darkness, with absolutely no air to breathe. This prayer we just read seems to indicate that God actually preserved Jonah alive, for at least some duration of time.

Whether Jonah was alive and conscience for all 3 days, or he died and then God brought him back to life, makes little difference. The fact that God preserved Jonah is a miracle in itself.

So again, God not only has complete control over the forces of nature. This scripture along with countless others proves that God has complete control of physical life and death.

With God all things are truly possible, if we believe and truly put all of our trust in Him, as Jonah's example clearly teaches us.

Let's look at one more example that proves that God has the power over all the laws of physics.

2 Kings 6.1-6

And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.

2 Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell.”

So he answered, “Go.”

3 Then one said, “Please consent to go with your servants.”

And he answered, “I will go.”

4 So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

5 But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, “Alas, master! For it was borrowed.”

6 So the man of God said, “Where did it fall?” And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float.

7 Therefore he said, “Pick it up for yourself.” So he reached out his hand and took it.

Friends, let’s remember that all of these scriptures are recorded for our benefit. So while this is a fairly simple story, the fact that Gods spirit working through Elisha, was able to defy the laws of physics by making a metal ax head flow, is truly remarkable.

Another source of comfort that can also fortify our faith, is the understanding that there is a multitude of angels, which are the servants of God, that are enlisted to help us, as God’s saints in times of trouble.

As we read in Heb. 1.14, many of Gods angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister, or to serve, those who will inherit salvation. Thus there may be multiple millions of angels, that are charged by God to help us.

This is a truth that I don’t believe we consider nearly enough.

What we need to meditate on, this fact that although they are invisible to us, they are nevertheless present in this physical creation, working behind the scenes in various ways for our benefit.

Lets review one account that drives the point home, that God’s angels are indeed present in this world.

Let’s continue reading here in 2 Kings 6.8-23

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, “My camp will be in such and such a place.”

9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, “Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there.”

10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?”

12 And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

This verse gives us insight to yet another super natural help that God has the ability to bestow on us, in a time of need. Apparently God was giving Elisha insight and information about what there foreign powers were planning.

God did this to give aid to the physical nation of Israel. Therefore might not God also divinely worn His spiritual children, those that He has personally selected and given His Holy spirit too, in a future time of need.

Again, remember, with God all things are possible. Let’s continue reading the story.

13 So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.”
And it was told him, saying, “Surely he is in Dothan.”

14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

16 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.”
Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

19 Now Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” But he led them to Samaria.

20 So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

21 Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”

22 But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.”

23 Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

There is a couple things that we can glean from this passage. First, verses 17-18 inform us that we have nothing to fear,” for those who are with us are indeed more than those who are against us.”

God’s angels are ministering spirits charged by God with among other things, to provide aid and protection to His saints.

Secondly, we are reminded that God has the power to blind, or otherwise incapacitate entire armies of people. Again reminding us that God has power over all flesh, and will fight our battles for us, as long as we put our trust, hope and faith entirely in Him.

And lastly, we see that God does not relish killing anyone, even the enemies of His chosen people. This passage shows Gods mercy, and also gives us an OT example of Jesus Christ’s instruction to show kindness, or love, even to our enemies.

OK, so we have established the fact, that our God is indeed all powerful, and has complete command and control over all of His Creation, with the only exception being controlling our carnal minds, which He leaves up to us to do.

So friends, the point I’m trying to drive home, as I stated earlier, is that all things are possible with God. We just need to fully trust that all things work together for our ultimate good.

Let’s now turn to the promises that God gives us, that are recorded in Psm 91.

- 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.”

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays
waste at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.

8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

And drop to verse 14. [God says] “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore
I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

What wonderful comforting verses that we can truly depend on in the coming times
of calamity. And we have many biblical and real life examples, that these promises
from God are something that we can absolutely depend on.

Consider the first Passover, recorded in Ex. 12, in which the terror by night, of the
death angel, passed over God’s people. And prior to that the many plagues, that
fell on the Egyptians, in which Israel was spared.

There are also secular accounts, that confirm God’s divine protection. I want to
share a story with you, that unfortunately is not in our American history books any
longer, but most certainly should still be.

This information comes from a sermon about angels given by Michael Heiss, who
is affiliated with one of the COG groups. Quoting from Mr. Heiss.

“ This incident happened to our first President George Washington long before he became President. It happened during the French and Indian War, and many of you are familiar with this story. It used to be taught in American History textbooks.

In fact, 1934 was the last time. It was removed! We don't realize how secular this country has become since the 1930s.

Here is the account of what became known as the Battle of the Wilderness, which took place in Western Pennsylvania, at the beginning of the French and Indian War, on July 9, 1755.

This was the story when General Braddock was leading the British troops against the French and Indians. He was warned, 'Don't do it; don't march single file through the woods. The green leaves, the brown trees and your bright red coats, you're perfect targets.'

Well, General Braddock was of the 'old school'—we've always done it—so he proceeded to do just that and got slaughtered! The Indians fired and killed every British officer. At one point a great Indian chief said:

"I called to my young men and said, mark the tall and daring warrior? He is not of the red-coat tribe—he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do—himself is alone exposed."

The Indian Chief was referring to George Washington!

We fired! And we fired! And we fired! But we could not hit him! The great Indian Chief said, 'We killed every British officer; But we could not touch you'—when he met Washington years later. In fact, this is what George Washington said about that battle: "

"But by the All-Powerful Dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me!"

(by the All-Powerful Dispensations of Providence, July 18, 2012, by William J. Federer; American Minute [americanclarion.com])

Remember a certain Psalm that says, 'A thousand move to your left, a thousand to your right, but no harm will befall you.'

I don't want to wax elegant on this, but this Indian chief said, 'He cannot be killed in battle. He is destined for greatness.

He wanted to meet him and years later this Indian chief met George Washington, and he said:

"Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for you, knew not how to miss—'twas all in vain, a power far mightier than us, shielded you."

There's no doubt that God's angels protected George Washington, because God knew He was going to separate Ephraim from Manasseh, and George Washington was going to be His chosen instrument.

This same great indian chief is accredited with righting a prophecy. When I say prophecy I'm using the word as actually used by that Indian chief. Just think about prophecy when I read you this:

"Seeing you were under the special guardship of the Great Spirit, we immediately ceased to fire at you. I am old and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but ere I go, there is something bids me...

What is that something?

...speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man... pointing at Washington, about 1790, some 15 years after the battle

...and guides his destinies—he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle." (therealamericanhis-story/gw.com)

He then went on to say that;

Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet! I had seventeen fair fires at him with my rifle and after all could not bring him to the ground!

(americanclarion.com)

Mr. Heiss concludes by saying: What an amazing testimony from a man who knew nothing about the God of Israel, nothing about Jesus Christ, yet, was moved to say that directly in person to George Washington some 15 years after that battle. What an amazing true story!

And so my friends, we see from this historical account, that God does indeed work with and protect and provide for certain individuals, that He has personally selected, for His special purpose.

And you and I have been personally called by God, for an even greater purpose, then was George Washington. For God used him to raise up a physical nation, but God has called us, to help Him establish the everlasting Kingdom of God.

Our job, is to fully put our trust, and faith in God, and to obey Him, regardless of the physical circumstances. We must heed the same instructions, which are recorded in Josh. chapter 1

Let's turn their and read the opening verses.

Josh. 1.1-9

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

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

4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn 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 from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Friends please note, that 3 times in this short passage, God instructs Joshua to be strong and have good courage. Interestingly, in doing a word study of the terms translated strong and good courage, I found that they mean vitally the same thing.

The instruction God is delivering to us through Joshua, is to stand firm, to be steadfast. Not to waver in our resolve, but rather to have faith, and to march forward, to inherit salvation.

Note verse 7 in particular. God is instructing us to stand firm and have conviction, to boldly obey Him.

That you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Let's turn to a New Testament passage that says virtually the same thing. Hebrews 12.1-6. And let's consider that these are the verses that immediately follow Hebrews 11, the faith chapter.

Heb.12.1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

Verse 12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,
13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be
dislocated, but rather be healed.

We are exhorted here, to be strong, and not to wither under the heat of
persecution, or any other trial. But rather to lay aside everything that weighs us
down, the sin that can easily ensnare us, and march toward our goal with strength
and courage, not wavering under the fire of affliction.

As is written in Prov. 3.5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Let's keep these thoughts in mind and turn back to Joshua 1, and read verses 8- 9,
once again.

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

As Jesus said, out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Friends, God is
reminding and commanding us here, of the need to be nourishing our heart and
minds by continuous bible study.

And to mediate and reflect on it often, throughout our daily lives. It is not to depart
from our mouths, meaning that we should develop the good habit of thinking
about God's word throughout the day.

And so let's end today's message with verse 9, of Joshua 1.

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid,
nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

And let's always remember, that with God all things are possible for him who
believes!

And friends, with that thought, I will end for today.

Thomas Trinko
5/3/14

