

# TRYING TO BELIEVE GOD

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June 2003

How very often have we Christians heard the testimony of other Christians as they struggled with their Faith and made the remark, "I am TRYING to believe God." And perhaps most of us, at some time or another, have made the same statement. But I want to say to the Bride of Christ that there is a place in Christ to which He is leading us, where all TRYING to believe God will be in the past. In fact, when we reach this place in our spiritual growth, it will actually be wrong for us to say, "I am TRYING to believe God."

You may be thinking that this TRYING is exactly what we should all be doing. But, I repeat, there is a place where our Lord is taking us so that when we arrive it will actually be wrong to make such a statement. It is hard to receive help from the Lord as long as we are TRYING to believe Him. For the promises are for those who are ALREADY BELIEVING Him, not to those who testify that they can't. Believing does not come by TRYING, but it is based on solid, scriptural information (knowledge) concerning Him who is to be believed.

Let me tell a story that I believe will help you see the point I am trying to make. At this time of the year in Arkansas, tornadoes are frequently passing through our part of the state.

Let's suppose that a Brother from our church should come to my office just now (one that I know is Spirit-Filled, honest and trustworthy) and tells me how a tornado had just passed through Gillett (a small town 12 miles south of DeWitt) and that every

building had been blown away and every person killed. I would no doubt be shocked. But, if he should go on to say he had passed through the town only minutes after the tragedy and had seen the dead bodies and destroyed buildings, then I would have some solid information to base my belief about the tragedy on.

Now let's suppose that my first cousin, who is a crop duster pilot, drove up and said he had just flown low over Gillett and witnessed the terrible scene. Further, just as these two witnesses finished their testimony, the phone rang and the Police Chief, who is a personal friend of mine and also a trustworthy person, gave me the same report. Would I look these men in the face and say, "I am TRYING to believe you?" No! I would now have reliable information to base my belief on that Gillett had indeed been destroyed. There would be no TRYING to believe. Because I know that these 3 men are truthful, I would accept their testimony at once.

Now when our God declares that He, "**Watches over His Word to perform it,**" (Ps.119:106) I must either believe Him at once, or doubt His integrity and honesty, and to doubt Him is to make Him a liar. Can you imagine taking the word of earthly Brothers, whom have proven themselves trustworthy, then looking the Author of all Truth in the face and saying, "I am

TRYING to believe you." Is it really all that hard to believe our God whom we know to be the Fountain of all Truth? Or do we just have trusting Him confused somehow with trusting ourselves? Do we not have the revelation that our God is a True Witness? It is the easiest thing in the world to trust a person whom we know to be trustworthy. There is no struggling, no trying. Is not Jesus the Greatest of all such persons? He is the source of all Holiness. From Him every honest person on Earth has received what Truth they have. Let every man be a liar, but our God be the Truth! Surely we, as Born-Again People, know that our God has total wisdom, total knowledge, total power, and that His very *nature* is Love. We know that He can never make a promise and fail to keep it. We know He has never done a single person wrong and that He cannot lie.

We have before said that *belief* is based on *knowledge*, and this carries over into the spiritual realm also. Common sense, or Horse Sense, is needed in religion as much as anywhere else. When the Holy Ghost comes in, He will lead us into all truth. (John 16:13) May I say that a great part of the truth that the Holy Ghost will teach us concerns the Faithfulness of our God? This revelation is given to every person who receives the Spirit of Christ. He imparts to us the KNOWLEDGE that our God is

Perfect in all His ways, and that there is no failure in Him at all. This then, is the Knowledge we must have in order to BELIEVE in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we earnestly and respectfully, and with patience, hear the Gospel, one day we will discover that we are believing it, through the work of the Holy Ghost upon our mind. Experience plays a part in our believing also.

Brother Charles Spurgeon told the story of a native in Africa who was told by an American missionary that water sometimes becomes so hard that a man could walk on it. The native replied that he believed a great many things the missionary had told him, but he could not believe that. Later the native visited England, and one frosty day he saw the river frozen, but he would not venture on it. He knew the river to be very deep and he was certain he would be drowned if he stepped out on it. Then he saw his friends and many others walking on the river. After that, he was finally persuaded and trusted himself where others had safely walked.

Have you ever had a good friend that has ventured to place a foot on the River of The Water of Life (the Word) and you know that the Lord did not let them drown, but fulfilled His Word and brought them safely across? If so, you are blessed in that God has allowed you to see such Faith, so as to encourage you to do the same. We are commanded to believe our God and all that He has promised. This command, or authority, is not from some minister, but from God, Himself! He bids us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we must pray and seek His revealed Word until we can obey Him.

Experience is one of God's ways of helping us come to Faith.

There is no hope for us outside of Him. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no matter what it is we are needing, He is the source of our help. Ps. 118:8, **"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."** Matt. 11:28, **"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** In this last verse, we are actually commanded to come unto Him with every sort of problem. Do we fear to come in Faith?

I read another story of a man who worked in a certain factory and who had a desperate need for salvation and healing for his body. Being a foreman in the shop, the owner had often spoken to him about the Lord and how he should turn to Him for help. But the foreman feared he would not be received by such a Holy God as he had been told about. One day the owner sent a note around to the foreman, "Come to my house immediately after work today." The foreman did as he was told and knocked on his boss's door. Answering the knock, the boss asked rather gruffly, "What do you want John, troubling me at this hour? If your work at the shop is done, what right do you have coming here?" "Sir," said the foreman, "I have a note signed by you saying I was to come here." "Do you mean to say that just because you had a note from me that you dared to come to my home and call me out after business hours?" "Sir, I do not understand your attitude. It seems to me that since you sent for me I had a right to come." "Come in John," said the boss, "I have another message I want to read to you."

He read Matt. 11:28, **"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** Then he asked, "Do you

think that after such a message to you from Jesus that you can be wrong in coming to Him? The foreman at once saw the lesson his boss had intended to teach him, and believed in the Lord Jesus. He was saved and also received healing for his body. So do *all men* have good authority for coming to Jesus Christ, no matter how desperate the need, nor how long-standing it may have been. The Lord bids us come to Him and trust Him. When the circumstances are black as midnight, He can be trusted.

If we could only enter into the Spirit and see into the mind of our God, we would no longer doubt His good intentions toward us! Jerm. 29:11, **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."** But let us return to the title of the sermon, TRYING TO BELIEVE GOD.

In preaching the fact that a Born-Again Person should not have to TRY to believe God, I have been told, "It is not the Lord that I don't trust, but myself." In making this statement, the people seemed to be thinking that their own imperfection was an excuse for doubting the Word of God. Friends, this is a trap of the enemy. Never in the Scriptures are we told to have confidence in ourselves. True Bible Faith does not look at self and its failures, but at Jesus Christ and His Perfection. Phil. 3:3, **"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Jesus Christ (because He is perfect and has no flaws in His character) AND HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH."**

To look at God's Word and doubt something He said because we ourselves are not perfect, is to

show our lack of understanding the Word. Never will this flesh of ours be perfect! On Rapture day it will still be making mistakes and the enemy will still be using it to try and make us disbelieve the Word. Then where will the people end up who wait to believe something God said until they have attained to perfection? They are in grave danger of entering into tribulation!

The truth is we are PERFECTED by Faith and Faith only. Bible Faith does not depend on this flesh being perfected, but rather on Jesus Christ who was born perfect and remained so. When the Bible says we are Justified by Faith in Christ, it means to leave our flesh man completely out of the picture. Rom. 5:1, **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Notice the scripture does not say we have peace with God because we have risen above all sin in our flesh! But it says we have this peace through, or because of, our Lord Jesus Christ, who did live above all sin in His Flesh!

Our peace is based on the fact of His perfect life, lived in our place, then given as the Perfect Sacrifice. When we say we must leave the *flesh man* completely out of the picture, you understand that we speak of keeping him under the Blood of Christ. This is done through moment by moment repentance, as we have need to do so. THE CROSS HAS MADE THE WAY FOR US TO FOREVER KEEP THE FLESH OUT OF THE PICTURE. OUR GREAT POINT IS THIS; WE HAVE NO SCRIPTURAL EXCUSE FOR NOT BELIEVING THE WHOLE WORD OF GOD. God’s plan included the imperfection of our flesh, yet in this state we are told to have perfect faith in Him.

Back to the statement that so many make when confronted with their error of TRYING to believe God. They say, “Oh we trust God, but it’s ourselves we don’t trust.” I have some tremendous news for you Saints of God, Jesus Christ paid with HIS FLESH, so that we do not have to disbelieve because of the failures of ours. Col. 1:21-22, **“And you that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled IN THE BODY OF HIS FLESH THROUGH DEATH, to present you Holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in His sight.”**

With our flesh man out of the picture, because we **“Reckon him to be dead,”** (Rom. 6:11) and considering only the character of our Holy Christ, what reason can we find for not trusting? We have been taught that our Faith must be made *perfect* in order to go in the Rapture.

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, PAGE 24, “When Satan tempts us we are to resist him in a Perfect Faith, in a Perfect Word, like Jesus did. The Word of God is perfect. We’re to have Perfect Faith in this Perfect Word, and resist Satan.”

PAGE 28, PARAG. 159, “.....The Word made flesh! Hallelujah! The Word operating in human flesh, by physical signs. By material signs, by scriptural signs, perfectly, TO BRING TO YOU A PERFECT FAITH FOR A PERFECT RAPTURE.”

PAGE 33, PARAG. 184, “.....Not just (a) faith, but a Perfect Faith, built up in here (the heart). And watch a Perfect God with a Perfect Heart, keep a Perfect Promise, by His Perfect Word, which is sharper than a two edged sword, and a discerner of the thoughts of the heart. And what? WE’RE COMING NOW TO THE

PERFECTION, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE HAS TO COME TO THIS IN ORDER FOR THE RAPTURE. That’s what’s holding it away right now, is waiting for that Church (Bride) to come into that Perfect Raptured Faith. I’m looking for it. It means a lot of shaking down for me, it means a lot for you, but together we’ll make it, by the Grace of God. Amen!

PAGE 20, PARAG. 114, “And so when a man lives by Faith, and walks by Faith, I mean substance Faith, he is isolated from the entire world and becomes a new creature in Christ. There, now you’re getting into Bride material. See! You’re getting into rapturing condition now. That means for each one of us, not just the Pastor now, Deacons, Trustees, that means for the Laity, every individuals walks in a world with God alone.” (End quote)

Perfect Faith was most certainly included in the teaching of the Prophet. Does his teaching conform to the Word? Indeed it does. Many scriptures teach that we are to become PERFECT in FAITH, but not one states that we can become perfect in our FLESH. Gal. 3:2-3, **“This only would I learn of you, received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of Faith?”**

Verse 3, **“Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the FLESH?”**

The implied answer is, “No.” We are never made perfect in our flesh. Yet we have many scriptures that state we must become Perfect. Then if we can never be made perfect in our flesh by keeping the Law, what is the meaning of the following scriptures?

Matt. 5:48, **“Be ye therefore PERFECT, even as your Father in Heaven is Perfect.”**

John 17:23, "I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made **PERFECT**, in One, even as we are One."

I Cor. 2:6, "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are **Perfect**, yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the Princes of this world, that come to naught."

II Cor. 13:11, "Finally Brethren, farewell, be **PERFECT**, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you."

Philip. 3:15, "Let us therefore, as many as be **PERFECT**, be thus minded, and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

Col. 1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **PERFECT** in Christ Jesus."

Col. 4:12, ".....that ye may stand **PERFECT** and complete in all the will of God."

We cannot throw these scriptures away, they are the Word of God, but can you see that they do not mean that we can ever be perfect in the *flesh*? Then in what way are we commanded to be **PERFECT**? There is only one way for us who were, "Made subject to **vanity**" (Rom. 8:20) to be made **PERFECT**, and that is by the

WAY OF FAITH, in what our Lord Jesus has done.

Rom. 5:1, "Therefore being **Justified** (made Perfect) by Faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

So many scriptures teach that we must reach **PERFECTION**, and we only quoted some of them, how can we deny the Word? Are we beginning to see that it will take this **PERFECT FAITH** in order to be raptured? The Lord has made a way for His Bride to reach this place of **PERFECT FAITH**. It is through the ministry of the five fold offices, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

Eph. 4:12-13, "For the **PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ.

Verse 13, "Till we come in the **UNITY OF THE FAITH** (a Perfect Faith) and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **PERFECT** man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

We have before stated that *Common Sense*, or *Horse Sense*, is needed in serving God as much as anywhere else. But, there is a tendency to overlook this common, or natural, sense when we set out to be *Spiritual*. Friends, this should not be so! If my precious wife of 59 years should promise me a certain gift for my birthday, I have

every right to look forward to and expect that gift to be forthcoming! My expectations are based on the fact of her integrity and honesty. I would not find myself *TRYING* to believe it would be given.

We must understand that this same kind of simple *TRUST* is all that our God expects of us. Call it what you will, natural ability, spiritual ability, faith, or just simple trust, when applied, our Father will receive it with *joy*, and nothing will keep Him from meeting our expectations. Amen! Do you trust Him even as far as your most trustworthy, earthly friend? Let me say again, it should be the easiest thing in the world for a Born-Again Christian to trust his God! Let us blow away the smoke screen of our own failures by repenting moment by moment, as we have need to do so, and then go right on trusting our God, refusing all condemnation.

One of the main keys that opens the door of Perfect Faith is our choosing to trust our God in the midst of our many failures. We need to see that our failures are all the more reason to trust Him, and not at all an excuse for losing Faith. Failures produce a need for Faith, the more we fail, the more must faith be exercised. The Cross made provision for every repented of failure. Amen! Let us then trust Him!

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