

What Are You Looking At? or What Do You Do When It Appears That God Has Failed You?

"I am the Lord. I change not." (Malachi 3:6) "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) "In Him is no variableness or shadow of turning. (James 1:17) "God is no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34)

Hi all,

Have you ever prayed and believed for something and it didn't happen? Or worse, the opposite of what you were praying and believing for happened? If so, what was your reaction?

Was it *"I guess it wasn't God's will to do that for me so I will just accept it and take it like a good little Christian."*

Or was it *"You never know what God is going to do. I guess He has a better plan for me than what I wanted."*

Or maybe it was *"Why didn't God answer my prayer? This faith stuff doesn't work and I am angry at God for not coming through for me"*.

When we are standing and believing to receive anything from God that is based on the promises in His Word, we don't give up until we have the manifestation of what we are believing to receive. That is how faith works. Simple...but not always easy.

But then, while we are waiting and believing for the manifestation of what is already ours, something adverse in the natural happens; or what we want doesn't happen within our time frame. If we judge God by what we "see, hear or feel" and give up, what has happened is that we have gone from "walking by faith" to "walking by sight".

2 Corinthians 4:18 in the Amplified translation says "Since we consider and look NOT to the things that are SEEN, but to the things that are UNSEEN; for the things that are VISABLE are temporary, brief and fleeting (*in other words subject to change*). But the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting (*unchangeable**)." 2 Corinthians 5:7 says "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

No matter what happens in the natural, it does not change God, His Word or His will—unless we allow it to. Remember, we all operate by free will. God Himself said that He let it be known throughout all heaven and earth that the choice to live or die, or to live "blessed" or "cursed" is completely based on our free will—it is totally up to us. Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live."

What are you looking at? What are you focusing on? Are you making choices base on what you see or feel or are you making choices based on the truth of God's Word? Are you looking at the circumstances or are you looking at the Word of God? If you are looking at things in the natural and because something didn't happen the way you wanted or when you wanted it to and you determine *"that's it. It's over. I prayed and believed and it looks like it didn't work. So I will just accept it as God's will and move on and do the best I can."* If you do that, what you have done is stop faith in its tracks—you have stopped faith from working.

But if you look at the natural and determine *"I don't care what it looks like or feels like, I am going to continue to stand on the Word of God and believe for a supernatural miracle of God no matter how long it takes because the only way it won't work is if I give up and quit!"*

Because when you choose to believe what the Word of God says—not your circumstances—and you refuse to give up no matter what, you will have the manifestation of what you are believing for based on the Word of God." Remember "fact vs truth". "Facts" are changeable. "Truth" is not. When the "truth" of the Word of God is applied to any "fact", the "fact" will eventually bow to the "truth"—as long as you don't quit applying the "truth" of the Word of God to that "fact"!

What if what happens in the natural looks severe and permanent? It doesn't matter. Nothing, no matter how severe or permanent it looks, can ever change the Word of God. And "ALL things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Look at **John 11:1-44**. Here we have the story of Martha and Mary whose brother Lazarus got sick and then died. This story is a great example of not being moved by what you see. Lazarus death was pretty severe and permanent, right? Jesus arrived after Lazarus had died and Martha said to Him "*Oh, if you had only been here our brother Lazarus would not have died.*" How many times have we said or heard someone else say "*Lord, if you had just done so-and-so this wouldn't have happened.*"

But Jesus told them they would see Lazarus again. Jesus continued "*I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*" They wrongly assumed He was talking about seeing Lazarus when they all get to heaven. They still didn't get it.

Jesus went and stood in front of Lazarus' tomb. **Verse 33** says that Jesus was "*troubled*". The Greek word used here is "*tarasso*" and means "*to stir or agitate*". **Verse 35** says "Jesus wept". They saw this and again *wrongly* assumed He was weeping because Lazarus had died. If you look at the original translation and the actual meanings of the words you will find that Jesus didn't weep because he was sad, (*after all He knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead in a minute*) he wept because *He was mad*. He was agitated. Have you ever been so mad that you cried?

It says in **v38** that He "*again groaning to Himself...*". The word for "*groaning*" that is used here is the Greek word "*embrimaomai*" and it means "*to snort with anger*". If you will take the time to research it out you will see what was actually happening here. It angered Jesus that, after all the time He spent with them and all the miracles they witnessed, and all His teaching on how to apply their faith to work just like His did, that they still did not have the faith to believe that He could raise Lazarus from the dead.

For us, this should be an encouraging example of faith in action. No matter how bad it seems, most of the time it isn't as severe as Lazarus death. (We have other examples of people who had died that Jesus raised from the dead. Most notably, is the example in Luke 7:11-15 where Jesus raised a young man from the dead out of his casket at his own funeral! So, you see it is never too late or too severe for the power of God to intervene—but it will happen according to your faith, not His.

Even in that extreme situation where Lazarus was concerned, Jesus wanted them to believe in, trust in and have faith in His ability and not what they were seeing—even death. And as the verse 33-34 shows, He did indeed raise Lazarus from the dead. And keep in mind that, just like the young man Jesus raised at his own funeral, Lazarus had already been embalmed, possibly even mummified. That is why verse 44 says that Lazarus was "bound hand and foot" (AMP says "linen strips") and Jesus instructed them to "loose him and let him go". Even being embalmed didn't stop the power of God from raising him up whole and healed!

Do these situations still happen today? Absolutely. The severity of any situation should never determine your level of faith, nor what the outcome will be. Didn't we just read that Jesus Himself said "ALL things were possible to him who believed?" That is why the devil will throw anything at you that he can to discourage you and get your eyes off Jesus and the Word and onto your situation. He will do anything to get you to give up and throw in the towel. Because he knows that getting us to quit is the only way he can win. Let me give you an example.

Let's say you are standing and believing for God to heal an infected or diseased body part. You believe this based on the more than 30 biblical reasons with over 100 scriptures to back it up that tell us it is God's will for all to be healed and made whole today—which is what Jesus bought for us through His "stripes" and His death on the cross.

But in the process of waiting for the manifestation healing, that body part gets worse and you wind up having it amputated. What do you do then? To most people that looks devastating and permanent. It looks like your faith didn't work. Again, what are you looking at? Are you looking at the natural which appears to be permanent; or are you looking at the truth of the Word of God which never changes, regardless of what it looks like.

“But Frank, having a body part amputated, or a house foreclosed, or a job lost, or having to file for bankruptcy, etc., is permanent. How can anyone possibly keep believing when that happens?” By choosing to continue to focus on God’s Word—not what it looks like.

We always have a choice. Any physical situation that looks impossible to us, just like Lazarus’ death, does not change God nor the truth that it is His will for all to be healed and made whole. As I mentioned before, didn’t Jesus say in Mark 9:23 that “ALL things are possible to him who believes”? Does “all things” mean “ALL things”? Yes. You can, of your own free will, make the choice to continue to stand and believe for a supernatural restoration of a missing body part, a lost house or job, or the resolution or restoration of any other seemingly “impossible” situation based on God’s Word.

Then why don’t we see more body parts restored, or people raised from the dead, or people walking on water, bankruptcies reversed, or houses returned, etc.? Because when something that severe happens, most people consider it “finished” and “irreversible”, so why continue to believe for it and they STOP BELIEVING FOR IT. That’s why.

Think about it. Which is harder for God: to have healed a body part before it was amputated or create a brand new limb after it was amputated? (Go read Matthew 15:30-31. Jesus did this very thing and it wasn’t in heaven. It was on the earth.) To God there is no difference. God has parts. He made that body. Don’t you think He can just as easily replace a part with a brand new one as to heal a part that has gone bad? It is just as easy for God to do either—but it is not according to what God can do—it is according to what we do, what we believe and the choices we make by our faith. Remember—free will. But also keep in mind that no matter what choices we make, it never changes how God feels about us. Just like He never changes, and His Word never changes, neither does His love, mercy and compassion for us ever change.

What we receive from God depends more on what we do than what God does. Why? The truth is that God, through Jesus Christ, has already made every provision and done everything He is ever going to do for us—and then He sat down. He has shown us in His Word how to walk and live by faith and how to apply His Word in every situation. He has also provided us with all the power in the universe to back it up—and if you are born-again, it is right there on the inside of you right now! (Colossians 2:10 AMP)

The truth is that we are not waiting on God. He is waiting on us. In Mark 11:24, Jesus didn’t tell the disciples “whosoever shall say **TO GOD**, remove this mountain”—no. He said “whosoever shall say unto **THIS MOUNTAIN...**” In other words, don’t go crying out to God when you face a “mountain” in your life. YOU speak to that mountain and YOU tell it to move and YOU take a stand and draw the line in the sand and God said “If YOU will take a stand and if YOU do the speaking to that mountain and tell it to get out of your life, I will back you up with all the power that I have to get the job done. But if you are waiting on God to move that mountain, you are going to be waiting a long time!

Now, let’s get one thing straight. I said all that to say this—God NEVER changes. His Word NEVER changes. The will of God NEVER changes—regardless of what happens in the natural. That is why we have to continually focus on God and His Word because it is the only thing in existence that does not change—ever!

In the Bible, there is example after example from Genesis to Revelation of natural situations that looked completely hopeless or impossible in the natural. But God, based on the faith of His people, intervened each time and changed and altered natural, physical law to accomplish what His people were believing Him for.

If you believe that God cannot change something that, in the natural looks permanent and final, then it will not be possible for you to receive such a miracle. Look one more time at what Jesus said in Mark 9:23. “If you can believe, ALL things are possible to him that believes.” Are all things possible to everyone? No. ALL things are only possible to them that BELIEVE. Again, would “ALL things” include any situation that we may face that looks impossible to fix or reverse? Of course it does. So how do you get the faith to believe? It tells us in Romans 10:17. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Faith only comes one way and that is by hearing and hearing and hearing the Word of God. Your faith level is directly based on your level of the knowledge of the Word of God. In other words, a little Word means little faith. A lot of Word means a lot of faith. And No Word means NO FAITH.

I eluded to this passage earlier, but let's take a closer look at it. In Matthew 15:30-31 says "And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, MAIMED (parts were missing) and many others, and cast them down at Jesus feet and HE HEALED THEM. Inasmuch, that the multitude wondered (were amazed) when they SAW the dumb to speak, the MAIMED TO BE MADE WHOLE, the lame to walk and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel." They saw parts that were missing be recreated right in front of them (they SAW it) right then, right there—and take note that it happened on earth—not when they got to heaven.

My opening scriptures tell us that Jesus has not changed and will never change. Acts 10:34 tells us that "God is no respecter of persons." If he did it for those people then and there (and there are many other examples of healing, deliverance and financial miracles in the scriptures) He will do it for you and me. But it is only "possible for them that believe"; those who focus and stand on what God's Word says, not what the circumstances say—regardless of how severe.

So if today you are facing a situation that seems unchangeable or permanent, or it seems that God has failed you, don't focus on the circumstances. Instead focus on the promises in the Word of God. When you are standing, walking and believing in faith the only way you can lose is if you allow the circumstances to persuade you to give up. Remember, just like Peter walking on the water (an impossible thing even with no storm, no wind and no high waves), if you take your eyes off Jesus (the Word) and focus on the storm (the circumstances) that is when you begin to sink.

I encourage you to draw a line in the sand, dig in and continue to focus on God's Word and His power and His strength. Then loudly and boldly declare "I REFUSE TO GIVE UP!" "I REFUSE TO BACK DOWN!" "I CANNOT BE DEFEATED AND I WILL NOT QUIT!"...and don't stop! (In other words...CAMP OUT AT 4!)

If you continue to do that, you will eventually get an image on the inside of you and will see yourself healed, prosperous, successful, free, etc., i.e. the manifestation of your miracle. When that happens there is nothing, no negative person, no impossible situation and no demon in hell that can stop it from coming to pass!

And remember, God will never leave you or forsake you and, no matter what it looks like, He never fails!

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Walking By Faith 4 Life™ Ministries