

I STILL Believe (Part 5)

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Series Key Texts:

Luke 18:8 (NIV)

8 ...I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

John 20:31 (NIV)

31 But these are written so that you may believe (and continue to believe) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, by believing, (continuing to believe) you may have life through his name.

John 3:14-16 (NIV)

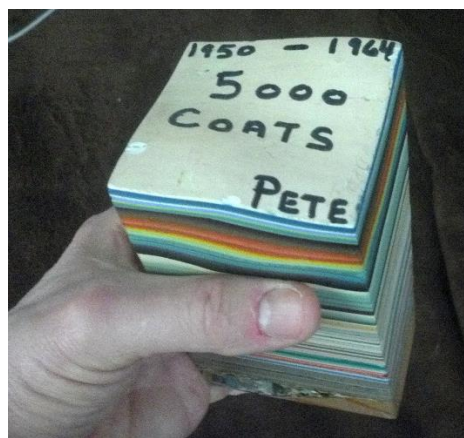
14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who **believes** (and continues to believe) may have eternal life in him." **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** (and continues to believe) in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Galatians 1:6 (NCV)

6 God, by his grace through Christ, called you to become his people. So I am amazed that you are turning away so quickly and believing something different than the Good News.

LAYERS AND LOOMS

Years ago in my childhood, I remember watching a program one day (I believe it was the old game show "To Tell The Truth") but what my mind remembers vividly is a man holding a piece of wood that he had painted over and over again. Originally the piece of wood was probably less than an inch thick; but now after thousands of coats of paint it stood many inches high. That picture has always stuck in my mind. Each layer was a part of the whole. Each layer had its own distinct color.



Another picture that comes to mind is that of a loom. Hundreds of strands of thread are woven together in intricate patterns creating beautiful tapestries.



In a similar fashion, we have been laying down different levels of our faith. Each one is important and helps make up the complete foundation for our belief. Each one is a strategic part of the answer to Jesus' Question in Luke 18. Will he find faith when he returns?

Today I want to lay down one more layer of belief...

First let's review the layers that we have already talked about.

1. **I Still Believe** in the One, Eternal, Self-existent God, creator of the heavens and the earth, all that is seen and unseen; His love of and desire to reveal himself and have relationship with those whom he has created.
2. **I Still Believe** in the Trinity of the Godhead as being revealed as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. **I Still Believe** that sin separates us from God and that the result of that sin is death or eternal separation from God in Hell
4. **I Still Believe** that God's remedy for Sin is Salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus and His work upon the cross.
5. **I Still Believe** that we are called to walk, by that same faith, in relationship with Jesus Christ, allowing the presence of His Holy Spirit to transform us into a new creation
6. **I Still Believe** that The Bible is God's Holy Word. That The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.
7. **I Still Believe** that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is the gift Jesus promised to all who believe
8. **I still Believe** in The Church

9. I Still Believe in The Ministry and its offices as given by God to the Church

10. I Still Believe that God Answers Prayer

11. I Still Believe in Divine Healing

I Still Believe (Part 5)

Key Text:

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

¹⁹And my God will meet **ALL** your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

12. I Still Believe God Provides for ALL of my Needs

Why is this an important part of our faith and something that we must continue to believe until Jesus comes?

Some of you may think that this is a small peripheral issue in foundation of faith. But God has really been dealing with me regarding the absolute importance of this layer of our belief.

There is an interesting passage in Jeremiah that reveals the dangers of not continuing to believe that God provides...

Jeremiah 5:7 (NIV)

⁷“Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied **ALL** their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes.

At some point in their journey, the Children of Israel stopped believing that God would provide and started turning to other (false) gods to meet their needs.

Now let me share a statement that God spoke to me a few days ago

*Temptation always occurs at the point when we stop believing that God provides for **ALL** of our needs*

The minute we stop believing that God will provide, the enemy rushes in to offer a different solution. A solution that leads us away from God and entraps us in his evil schemes.

This is what happened in the Garden of Eden. This is what happened to Abraham and Sarah when they tried to produce an heir by Abraham sleeping with Hagar. This is what happened to King David when he sinned with Bathsheba. This is what happened to Elijah when he ran from Jezebel. This is what happened to Judas when he sold Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver. This is what happened to Ananias and Saphira when they lied about how much they received when they sold a piece of property. This is how the devil tried to tempt Jesus in the desert when we was hungry. And this is what happens to us when we fail to hold on to our belief that God supplies ALL of our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

I know in my own life that it has been those times that I stopped believing that God would meet my needs that I took things into my own hands and when we do that, too often we end up with our own type of Ishmael to deal with.

Even though Abraham struggled with this and produced Ishmael; ultimately the scriptures says that he held firmly to his belief in God's promise to provide.

Romans 4:3 (NIV)

³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:18-22 (NIV)

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.** ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

What did he believe? He believed that God would provide.

Let's look at another occasion in Abrahams life that he held on to his belief that God would provide

Genesis 22:6-14 (NIV)

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “**God himself will provide** the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

It is here that God, through Abraham reveals His name and character as Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Will Provide. Something that God not only wanted Abraham to know and experience but all of us.

Jehovah Jireh - My provider

His grace is sufficient

For me, for me, for me

Jehovah Jireh - My provider

His grace is sufficient for me

My God shall supply all my needs

According to His riches in glory

He will give His angels Charge over me

Jehovah Jireh cares for me, for me, for me

Jehovah Jireh cares for me

Do you believe that?

I Still Believe God Provides for ALL of my Needs

a. He Provides for My Emotional Needs

Emotional health is one of the huge problems and discussions in our world today. Depression and mental health problems are at the core of so many issues that our society is dealing with. There is a great need for Emotional health.

Personally, I believe that this is the least talked about aspect of God's provision for our lives. And yet Paul tells Timothy...

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

In other words, God provides for us emotionally. Our need for love is met in God. Our need for peace is provided by God. Our need for a sound mind is satisfied by God. Our need for Joy is fulfilled by God. Our Emotional healing comes from God. (Just as we spoke about Divine Healing last week – don't forget that God doesn't only heal our physical needs, but our emotional and spiritual as well)

Think about Abraham's journey to sacrifice Isaac. The first thing that God had to provide for Abraham involved emotional provision. How hard would it have been to hear God say sacrifice your son to me? And yet God provided the strength of heart, and trust that Abraham needed to walk in obedience.

I want to suggest to you that even before that God had provided another emotional need for Abraham – something all of us need – LOVE.

Abraham knew that God loved Him. The emotional provision allowed Abraham to trust God, to walk in obedience and to believe that God would provide. God made a promise of love that would not fail. And He has made that same promise of love to you.

When we believe that God provides for us emotionally, we receive the benefits and fulfillment of His love, His Peace, His Joy, and a sound mind.

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

³You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in you.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ ...for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

b. He Provides for My Physical Needs

- He provides through our own hard work and the labor of our hands

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NIV)

⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

- He provides through our trust and obedience to His Financial Principles.

- Generosity and Provision for others

Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)

²⁵A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

- Tithing & Sacrificial Giving to God’s Kingdom

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Luke 21:2-4

²He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³“Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the

others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- He Provides Supernaturally
 - Because He loves and cares for us

Matthew 6:25-33 (NIV)

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.^(H) ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- In big and small ways
- Day in and Day Out
- In ways that we cannot comprehend

Psalm 37:25 (NIV)

²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

c. He Provides for My Spiritual Needs

- He provides for our salvation

Titus 3:5 (NIV)

⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

- He provides for our continued life in relationship with Him

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Samuel 23:5

Is not my house right with God? Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?

- He provides forgiveness and renewal every day

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me