

SPEAKER : Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
TITLE : The Lord is Present
TEXT : Matthew 16:8 – 10

Matthew 16:8 – 10 (CEV)

8 Jesus knew what they were thinking and said:

You surely don't have much faith! Why are you talking about not having any bread?

9 Don't you understand? Have you forgotten about the five thousand people and all those baskets of leftovers from just five loaves of bread?

10 And what about the four thousand people and all those baskets of leftovers from only seven loaves of bread?

Introduction

There is a lot of emphasis in the ministry of deliverance that we need to 'bring to surface' the deep hurt and pains so that a person can be healed in the deep recesses of the soul. But there is yet another more powerful resource that we can tapped into to grow our faith and to find help in time of need.

1. Building Positive Faith

Faith is built on the actual, historical activity of God, as it is recorded in the Word.

The walk of faith is grounded on this principle, "If God has saved me and has brought me thus far, I can trust that He will see me through now."

We need to wake up from our spiritual amnesia if we want to see victories. We need to recall the goodness and the power of God to save, deliver and provide. That He is the God Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Shamma, Jehovah Raphe. 'That He is more than enough for me.'

2. Loosing our faith

At the time of the crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites weren't expecting a miracle. They were not expecting God to 'show up'. They were in fact murmuring and complaining.

All that they had experienced before were not remembered.

3. Gaining Faith

Example of the crossing of the river Jordan (Josh.3:9 – 13).

9 Joshua spoke to the people:

Come here and listen to what the LORD our God said he will do!

10 The Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites control the land on the other side of the river. But the living God will be with you and will force them out of the land when you attack.

And now, God is going to prove that he's powerful enough to force them out.

11-13 Just watch the sacred chest that belongs to the LORD, the ruler of the whole earth. As soon as the priests carrying the chest step into the Jordan, the water will stop flowing and pile up as if someone had built a dam across the river.

The LORD has also said that each of the twelve tribes should choose one man to represent it.

4. The Presence of God and Gaining Faith

- a. Observe the principle of the Sabbath.
- b. Remember and observe the principle of Passover.

Conclusion

Hindsight isn't always perfect 20/20 vision.

We can also forget the good and most powerful manifestation of the deliverance of God within three days.

Today, if you are in a dire need, you need to remember God and think highly of God.

We need to take cognizance and pay attention to the presence of God, even though we may not feel it.

We too, who had been saved by grace, do not fully realize the full extent of the blessings that belong to us as a child of God!

We do not realize the full link with the eternal purposes of God for our lives.

As you re-discover God from your past, how He has been faithful to you; and God has been in a quiet and unobtrusive manner been sustaining you throughout all these years, you will also say like Jacob said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."