Attaching Faith to the Promises - Equipping - Encounter 319
Tim Dickerson ~ January 8, 2025

Begin by repeating some things we've said before. (Perhaps approaching it in a little different way.)
Pay attention to what Holy Spirit ignites in you

When training people in leadership to interview candidates for key positions in the company it is not uncommon to hear them report back & say something like, "I think this person has real potential."
Yet the key questions are, "can they unlock it? — do they know how to be effective in harvesting it? Are they coachable?" Will they settle for an OK, comfortable, fairly safe level that doesn't stretch them, or go for true potential?

"Unfulfilled potential is as common as dust in the gutter." (Calvin Coolidge, 30th Pres)
(<u>The challenge is primarily the inner-man)</u>
'It's my life' — mindset that's generally the culprit —

Purchase eye salve: "Purchase eye salve to be placed over your eyes so that you can truly see. All those I dearly love I unmask & train. So repent & be *eager* to pursue what is right." (Rev.3:18-19 tPt)
(Laodicea means "people's rights")

(I realize that what I'm about to say will probably irritate more than a few)
If you don't want more, you're just being selfish. ~ stay in your comfort zone; 'no risk' is more important to you than growth — full potential ~ (Jesus' reward)

Lack is not humility.

Abundance, *<u>managed well</u>*, demonstrates humility. All that you need, hope for, or desire must first find its <u>center</u> in the Lord — SGWP. **(Hear & Obey -** complete dependency on God, w/ $$, is humility**)** Where there is an *ever increasing* sensitivity to the Spirit is how this happens, not just the application of principles.
Money was never intended to be your security/center!
But, abundance is God's intent! (well managed)

"The mature children of God are *<u>only</u>* those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit." (Rm.8:14; **<u>28-31</u>** - tPt) — (The Greek is quite emphatic: "those and only those.") Inner chatter/self talk must be distinguished from the voice of the Spirit. Self talk is primarily designed to *resist* change (status quo).

<u>All true followers (disciples) of a messiah, anywhere in the world, have one primary objective - to become like *their* messiah.</u> If that isn't your purpose, you're probably not a true follower - you *could* be just religious.

"*Greater is the one who can rule and govern in his inner world-than he that attempts to rule his external world." (Pr.16:32 BJ)*. Said slightly different: "If you cannot rule in your spirit – your inner world — do not attempt to rule a city—in your external world." — a high degree of self-mastery is essential. — (no victims)

How much of what He has destined you for are you able to handle? (or would the blessing kill you? Throw you off track from your primary agenda?)

The relational component of maturity - the inner world w/ God - becomes the foundation. This often comes slowly over time. 😉(Ex.23:27, 29&30).

God is saying, "Align your thoughts and your expectations with my ***promises***, and don't allow yourself to be afraid of believing."
If God says you can do all things through Him, and you don't believe it, then you are not just doubting yourself, you're not trusting Him.
"*Faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen."* HEB.11:1

May we not settle for *any* less than promise.

"Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! *He will outdo them all,* for his miraculous power constantly energizes you." EPHESIANS 3:20. tPt
A lot of what we ache for must be pursued. The Christian life is *not* a passive life. **The *worst* that can happen to us is that we settle down and remain in the same spot.** (**Your will, your way**)
1Cor. 12 is the greatest teaching ever given on the spiritual gifts. 1Cor. 14 begins by says "pursue the gifts earnestly". In other words: The teaching did not release the gifts, in & of itself. Faith in the promise, w/ action, will release it!
Faithfulness sets the stage for the explosive touch/move of God.
Sometimes we have it too good to ache for more. (Laodicea)

Rebellion was measured by their (Israel's) unwillingness to unite faith to the promises of God.
Ps.95:8-10 "Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested me. They tried me though they saw my works. For 40 years, I was grieved with that generation and said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts. They do not know **My ways.'** As I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest." Rebellion will always preempt 'rest'. (impossible to please God w/o faith)

When your mind is consumed w/ your problems, you're not experiencing the fullness of God's love. He wants you to find freedom in complete *oneness* w/ him.

"I am standing in *absolute stillness*, *silent* before the one I love (presence), *waiting* as long as it takes for him to rescue me. Only God is my Savior, and he will not fail me. For he alone is my safe place. His wrap-around ***presence*** always protects me as my champion defender."(Ps.62:5&6) ***Believe!!***
Not passive— ready, expecting (in that silence) to

Hear & Obey.

Complaining & criticism is how fear talks. You can never be 'more than a conqueror' w/ the language of fear! It is evidence that God has not become the strength of your life. Complaining & criticism denies His Lordship, and is the language of unbelief. *The language is always the identifier.*

Thankfulness eliminates entitlement. Thankfulness insulates us from that Spirit. Complaining & criticism - both fan the flame of unbelief. Do not be soft on the dark world & call it compassion. Give 'no quarter' to complaining & criticism.
We are called 'believers', not doubters. *Nothing* can stop you if you just believe.

When our **only standard** is the *presence* of God, the favor of God rests upon us, and all things become *possible*. We are not influenced by **e**xternal circumstances, **e**motion, or **e**nvironment — only influence by presence.
Trust God, and completely resign your will to his will. If you let God control, you will finally experience the freedom & unity with him that you desire.

The object of war is victory. The object of victory is occupation. The object of occupation is transformation. (Napoleon)
Presence! Take occupation of the promises. Attach faith to them. Believe.

A couple final comments:
If a wealthy person, whom you believed & could absolutely trust, told you to come to his office on Friday & he will give you $100,000, would you wait til Friday to give thanks, or would you be thankful beginning now?
No, I think you'd start right now!! (This is going to happen - belief!)
(**Nothing is impossible w/ God**)
"No freshly spoken word shall ever come to you w/o the ability to fulfill itself."
Someone once said, "You cannot change your heart. God will not change your mind, but if you change your thoughts, God will change your heart." Just thinking isn't enough. The heart is the power source, not the head. Believe!
Lord, may this grace come upon us! (John 15:7-8)
"If you abide in Me (oneness — *occupation*), and My words abide in you (*occupation*), ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."
"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so prove* to be My disciples." (remember, the objective of occupation is transformation — define)

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Attach faith to the promises of God!

Pray: Jesus, we want to know you as well as you know us. Draw us into a depth of your presence that we've yet to discover. May we experience that in ways that are unprecedented. Make us fully yours with no barriers to restrict your love.
May a grace for John 15:7-8 come upon us! May *you* be our one desire in an intimate way that brings glory to your name.
Amen