

The Master already knows what it will look like when He is done, and all we can see are holes, missing pieces, and everything that does not fit.

If something is going on in your life, it is going on for a reason — **God's reason, God's purpose, God's timing.** Trust Him, be obedient to His word and He will likewise be faithful.

Let's Pray

Lord, I come to your Throne of Mercy and declare, "Help my unbelief!" I repent of trying to control my life, putting my trust in the work of my hands and calling it faith, looking for answered prayers to fulfill my wants and desires instead of throwing all my trust in You and Your plans. Give me the faith of that little boy that saw the waves and howling wind, but trusted when his daddy said: "We are going to be alright," and then went to bed in the storm. Amen!

*Quotes of Joyce Green

CD's are available on this subject.

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IS YOUR FAITH UNDERDEVELOPED?

A friend of mine years ago lived in New Orleans. He did not heed the hurricane warning and evacuation. All of the sudden, the side of the house was hit like a sledge hammer. He jumped up, startled, and looked out the window just as the roof on the house across the street lifted off in the fierce gale. In fear, he got a chair and stood on it, feeling of his ceiling to see if it would hold on in the howling wind. He felt a tug on his pant leg. He looked down and it was his five-year-old son who asked, "**Dad, are we going to die?**" He got down off the chair, for he realized his son had seen his fear and answered, "**No son, God is going to protect us!**" His little boy replied, "**Good, I am going to bed.**" His son had heard the wind, had

seen the roof destroyed and the water flooding in, but his daddy said "it was going to be all right," so he was able to sleep through the hurricane. No matter what he saw, heard or felt, he knew his daddy had said it would be ok, and he could rest on those words!

We can know that nothing, nothing, nothing can get into our lives that is not filtered through the fingers of a loving Father, and if He has allowed you to be touched with a difficulty, a trial or a storm, it is to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you in your faith and trust in Him. (I Peter 5:6-10)

A railroad boxcar load of my presumption (what we call faith) to believe for a worldly object (prosperity, healing, or that job) will do nothing if I have not heard from God! But let the Holy Spirit put that little seed (His Faith, that spark of His Word) in my heart, and it will move that mountain.

In Matthew 14, Peter said, "Lord, bid me to come to you walking on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves and boisterous wind he was terrified and began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me!", and immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand

and caught him. Then Jesus said to Peter, "O thou of little faith, why did you doubt me?" Peter heard the **Word of The Lord that said, "Come to me"**, but he saw the wind and the waves, and he took his eyes off of Jesus and fear entered.

Is Jesus saying to you, "**you of underdeveloped faith, why did you doubt me?**" The Word that created all things, that said "Lazarus, come forth." He says I AM MORE THAN ENOUGH. The angels, mighty in strength, watch over His Word to perform, to guard and protect God's integrity! **What He says, He does! God is faithful!**

Solomon in the dedication of the Temple said, "Not one word has failed of all His wonderful promises, which He promised through Moses, His servant." (I Kings 8:56) In Romans 4:3, Abraham believed God (believe means to entrust, to have faith in) so God declared him to be righteousness. We are to put our trust in Him and walk in peace (no doubt and no fear) and in His love.

A friend of mine was trying to sell cars and having a hard time. One day he declared, "I will sell two cars today," and stood in the belief he would do it. At the end of the day, he did not sell a car, was upset. So he asked the Lord, "Why? I know I have the faith, but it didn't work." **God's faith says I am going to trust you no matter the outcome.** "Lord, you know

the bills I have. I know you are in charge of the money and the time tables, and like Paul, I want to learn to be content in whatever state I am in. I will rest in Your faithfulness, Lord, but I confess, you are making me a little nervous right now, so I pray you help my unbelief.” My friend is not even selling cars today, the Lord provided him with a job in his calling.

I know of a preacher who drove up on a car wreck where a man was killed. He was stuck in the traffic. A Word from The Lord came to him to go and pray for the dead man. At the time, this went against his theology and belief system, but that Word kept bothering him. He asked the police officer that was directing traffic if he could go and pray for the dead man. The officer said no, the man has been dead an hour. But that Word kept bothering him. So again he asked and this time was given permission. He prayed and the man was raised from the dead. **This man really didn't believe but he heard a word from the Lord and obeyed!**

Now let's look at these two situations just described. One man believed and it didn't work the way he presumed. The Lord was moving him to be blessed later. Another man didn't believe, but heard a word from the Lord and **obeyed** it, and raised the dead.

In John 15:7 He says, ***“If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you.”***

Then later on in verse 17, ***“This I command you, that you love one another...”*** He is saying **abide in me** and let **my words abide** in you and **love one another**. Meet these conditions and you will get the promises.

The Lord gave Abraham a promise and told him to count the stars, if you are able to count them. He was told by the Lord, “so shall your descendants be.” Then 24 years later, the promise came to pass. There is that word “patience” we hate (waiting on the Lord). My friend selling cars could not see at the time what the Lord was doing. He knew he needed the money right then, to pay bills. In every case, it goes like the little boy who said, “I am going to bed” in the middle of the storm because he trusted his daddy's word!

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The elders (saints) obtained a good report, not because of achievements, personal holiness, or acceptance of promises, rather by obedience, persistence and sacrifice. Faith is an important weapon, and we should focus on the promise rather than the problem. Many times, we are like Peter, we hear God's word, but also see the waves and hear the wind howling. Lord, bring us to that place of complete

rest and peace as we walk on the water to His love!

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”.

This scripture says **“if need be** you have been grieved by various trials....tested by fire,” is this not a building of your faith? We have to OBEY God's word while we walk it out. The trials are a testing and a revelation of our heart condition. Do we reflect the nature of Jesus or Satan? Understand that we can't reflect both.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

“Faith is not believing that we will receive things — Faith is trusting God in ALL things!”*

We may go for years believing for a break-through in the future and put our trust in being happy and fulfilled then! (It will be better when my mate is saved.) The thing for which we are believing is what we think will make us happy.

“Then the lesson that God has for you today is exactly what you are going through today. He is the God of now.”*

“Faith is trusting in an Infinite God who reaches into the finite, whose plan is not like our own.”*

Joseph had a dream about the future. God's plan was to send him to prison to prepare him for his calling. Moses answered God's call at 40 years of age to rescue his people from the bondage of Egypt. God's plan sent him to 40 years of learning about sheep and patience in the wilderness to prepare him for the task.

Jesus is your all in all today. Enter that rest and submit to God's plan.

Our controlling and striving to put all of the pieces together keeps us from total trust and abandonment to God. The place God has you right now is “The School of Christ”. **“That hard thing you are going through is not an interruption, it is your life. Trust God and bear fruit where you are.”***

God can see the big picture - we can't. Our lives are similar to a jigsaw puzzle; lots of pieces, different sizes and shapes. When the Master's hand puts each piece together carefully, the way it was designed, it becomes a beautiful picture.