

The Word of Faith

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THE FATHER'S CARE

John 17:23, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in me; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

I want you to notice the expression particularly, "...and hast loved them as thou hast loved me." I'm glad that the Father loves us as He loves Jesus. I want to talk to you today on this subject, the Father's care, the Father's love, the Father's protection.

There is no truth so far reaching as the blessed fact that our Father God cares for us. He loves us even as He loves Jesus this text says.

In the Old Testament He was Jehovah to Israel. He was shut up in the holy of holies. He dealt with Israel and awful judgment to the disobedient. They did not know Him as Father. They did not know Him as a lover.

They were commanded to love and obey Him, or suffer the consequences. So into that kind of a hard, harsh atmosphere of justice Jesus came; and they could not understand Him. He talked about God as His Father. He told of the Father's love and the Father's care for His own, and it mystified them.

Now if He had come with a message like John the Baptist and commanded them to repent,

calling them bitter, then they would have understood Him. But when He introduced a Lover, a Father God of love, His word fell upon unresponsive ears.

I want us to notice a few scriptures that tell us about the love of God, and the words that Jesus gave us. You will have to admit yourself, as we look at these scriptures, that as sons and daughters of Almighty God, we have failed to see as we should this love side of God.

For instance, here are some scriptures in John 16. John 16:23, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." Then notice the 27th verse. "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."

Then notice in Matthew's gospel, the 17th chapter. I want us to notice some ways in which Jesus used the name "Father" and what He said about it, and so on. Matthew 6:8, "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father..." I want you to notice the utter tenderness of it.

"Be not ye therefore like unto

them..." I think it would be good for us to read these scriptures about the ones He said we should not be like. We might learn something.

Start with the fifth verse, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men." We don't want to pray to be seen of men, or heard of men either.

"Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet." He doesn't mean for us to do all of our praying quietly, but we must have that. "And when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do..." Repetition is simply saying the same thing over and over again. "For they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them." We had better take note of this hadn't we? We had better check up on ourselves.

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him." He knows, but He still told us to ask Him.

So He said then, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven." Notice the utter tenderness of it.

Then again, listen to the Master, the Lord Jesus, in this same chapter. Skip down to the 26th verse of the 6th chapter of Matthew. "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

The Israelites, to whom He was speaking, never grasped it. They didn't understand what He was talking about. That was utterly new. To tell you the truth about it, it is new to most of our church members today.

Most of us have been taught to fear and to shrink from a God of justice. We have never seen the love side of God as we should have seen it. That is what Jesus came to bring to us. "For God so loved the world..."

Everyone knows John 3:16, but do you know John 3:17? "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Thank God, He did love us, and He does.

Let's go on here in this 6th chapter of Matthew. To me it is most beautiful. Matthew 6:30-33, "Therefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;

and all these things shall be added unto you." Thank God, He didn't say they would be taken away from you. He said they will be added unto you. That proves that the Father cares for His own. "All these things shall be added unto you."

Now notice the 34th verse, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself, Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Another translation, I think, makes it a little more clear to us. It says, "Be therefore not anxious for the morrow."

God doesn't want His children to be anxious or to worry. "Be not therefore anxious for the morrow." In other words, He is saying, "Have no worry, have no frets, no anxieties, because I am your heavenly Father. I know what things you have need of before you ask.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." That is what He is saying. "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." So have no worry, no fret, no anxiety.

If He is your Father, you may be assured that He will take a Father's place and He will perform a Father's part. You may be certain that, if He is your Father, He loves you and He will care for you. I'm glad He is my Father. Is He yours?

Let's look at some more scriptures now. Let's turn back again to John's gospel, and this time let's turn to the 14th chapter. We will get a revelation of the Father's attitude toward His own children.

John 14:21-23, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:

and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Isn't that beautiful?

There are two things suggested here in these three verses we read. Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them..." Now remember that His commandments are that we love one another even as He loved us. That sums the whole thing up. There is no use bothering about anything else.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you." There is no use worrying about any other commandment, that sums up the whole business. In the book of Romans Paul says, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." If you do this you fulfill all the rest of it.

The second fact is that "he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father." If you walk in love you walk in God's realm, for God is love. The great Father God is a love God, and if you walk in love you walk in His realm.

The Bible says He is love, then His very nature compells Him to care for us, protect us, and shield us. Love does that, even natural love. How far is divine love beyond natural love?

I like the scripture where Jesus said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children..." How many

of you parents have it as the plan and purpose and will for your children that they go through life poverty stricken, with their nose to the grindstone, sick and afflicted, down-trodded and down-cast, down and out? Not a single one of you.

Parents will sacrifice because they love their children. Many of them will work their fingers to the bone and will sacrifice to help their children gain a better education so they can have things easier and better in life than they had them. They want to shield them because they love them. They want to keep them from some of the bumps and the knocks and the hard times that they had. Just natural folk are that way. You don't have to be a Christian to be that way.

He said, "If ye then, being evil (or natural), know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" Your Father. I'm glad our Father loves us. Our relation as sons and daughters is a challenge to His love.

We hold the same relationship to the Father that Jesus did when He walked the earth. If He loves me as He loves Jesus, I am not afraid to face life's problems because He is with me as He was with the Master--the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice again the other scripture. John 16:2, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." You and I can say, "I'm not alone because the Father is with me. If He loves me as He loved Jesus, then He is with me as He was with Jesus." Isn't that true? Thank God, I

am not alone. Isn't that comforting? I'm not alone, because the Father is with me.

THE WORD OF FAITH

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Donald Smith, associate editor

MONTHLY LESSON

Our lesson this month is the second in the gifts of the Spirit series and is entitled The Gift of the Word of Knowledge Part 2. These lessons are free. Write for your free copy today.

All Faiths Crusade

You are invited to our All Faiths Crusade conducted by Kenneth Hagin, at the Carlton Hotel Grand Ballroom, Elm at Broadway in Tyler, Texas starting Sunday afternoon, March 7, 2:30 P.M. thru Sunday afternoon, March 14, 2:30 P.M. There will be two services each day Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.

Call your friends and tell them about the meeting. We will look for you there.

Testimonies In Brief

Enclosed is \$100, and I will commit myself to send \$50 per month for the rest of the year. So many of my friends and neighbors are receiving so very much through your ministry--radio, tapes, writings and personally. You will never know how much my spirit has benefited through you in so many, many ways. R.D.W. Attorney

Yesterday I was tempted--really tempted to start smoking again. I listened to your radio program and a great burden lifted! Praise the Lord! A smile was on my face and I was freed from Satan's pull! Isn't God good? K.V.E.

I have never heard or read the glorious revelations God has given to you, and I thank God that you have been faithful and obedient to His love for you by passing on to others this precious, wonderful edifying truth of His glorious Word. Mrs. E.Z.

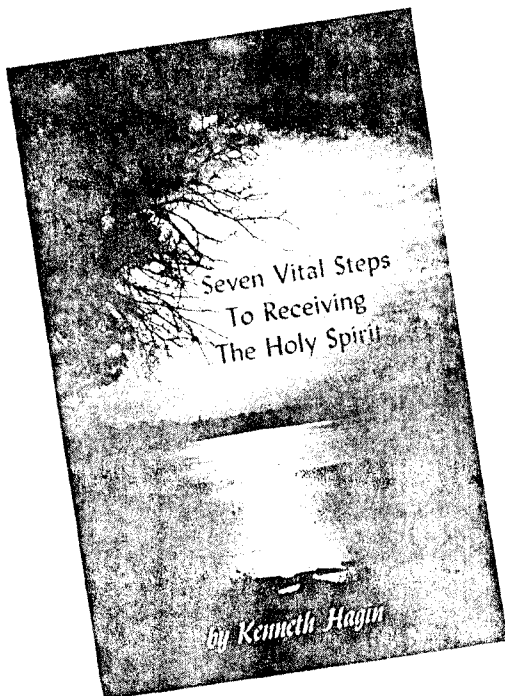
Your study courses on Bible prayer and faith have blessed my life. I received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit last December while studying your course on prayer. They are such a blessing. I wish every Christian could have them. C.O.S.

Telephone call....Indiana....Rush me 100 Prayer & Faith Courses for Tuesday night prayer meeting study with young people of all faiths....God is pouring out His Spirit....these youth are on fire for God, going everywhere witnessing....They NEED to be taught, and your courses are ideal. Mrs. J.K.

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"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Acts 19:2. Are you a believer but feel yet there is more for you in your spiritual walk? There is! What does God say about the Holy Spirit? Would you like to know more about this priceless gift? In this annointed book you will find biblical facts in simple language on why every believer should receive this gift, and how to receive it.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:16, 17

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