

RESTORED FAITH!

“And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. ¹⁷ And He said unto them, “What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?” ¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto Him, “Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?” ¹⁹ And He said unto them, “What things?” And they said unto Him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: ²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. ²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”

(LUKE 24:13-21)

I feel it of the utmost importance to write this message concerning the regaining of lost faith. The spirit of God has impressed upon my mind the great need for restored faith among His people. The loss of faith, and the subsequent indifference, is a great ill in Christendom today, sapping the spiritual life of many. These are momentous days of restoration of the early church power, of the promised out-pouring of the spirit in all the world, and of the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit. The wave of unbelief caused by seemingly unanswered prayers, has dulled the edge of the sword in the hands of God's people, and rendered much of the power of the word ineffective. It is time for RESTORED FAITH! It is time for a reawakening of the unshakeable faith of the early apostles who *“with great power they gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”* (ACTS 4:33) God would restore these paths to walk in and repair the breach made by the enemy.

The loss of faith is evidenced by manifested formality in religious services.

A stereotyped, formal way of saying and doing things, that is clearly the result of habit, rather than the out-gushings of vibrant faith and love! The prayer is prayed to be heard, not felt or actually expected to result in a definite answer.

Another evidence of lost faith is a WANT OF RELIGIOUS ENJOYMENT ACCOMPANYING GROUP WORSHIP. The services become little more than a duty, and there is a lack of spiritual worship and joyful communion with God. The services come under a religious bondage and Christian duties become a burden and not the spontaneous outburst of a loving heart. It is evidenced in the individual by a LACK OF SECRET PRAYER and the outpourings of the Spirit of prayer. While love and faith of Christ remains fresh in the soul, the indwelling Spirit of God will reveal Himself as the Spirit of supplication and travail. Many harbour a secret resentment against God religion in their heart, that is seldom if ever expressed. At times we fail in daily communion and obedience and wonder why God seems so distant at the moment we are in desperate need. Prayer is a daily receiving of Divine life, not a last resort in cases of emergency. For those that forget God in times of prosperity He declares,

“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh...Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me...Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.”

(PROVERBS 1:26,28,31)

For many years, many have been walking away from Jerusalem, the city of the upper-room experience. The Holy city, where deep and sacred consecrations were made. Many have long forgotten Calvary's hill, where the love of God was first shed abroad in their hearts and they heard the tender words of the dying Jesus, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* (LUKE 23:34) The road away from God is not walked in a day, but a long tiring journey which some day dawns in the awakening of the fact that the Spirit hath departed! When Samson realized that the Spirit had departed from him it was too late! Slowly he had drawn away from God until his strength departed and he was at the mercy of his enemies.

It is time friend, to recognize the stranger walking along beside you, hearing your confession of

doubt. He is aware of the day the cock will crow and faithfully warns us in advance. Let us walk no longer on the road to Emmaus, but realize our condition as a body, repent of our blindness and slowness of heart and believe, and thus restore our vital communion with God. He is walking along beside us, hearing the confession of doubt we make, feeling the sadness and discouragement we feel and ready to reveal Himself afresh as the risen Lord!

Now follow closely the account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; follow earnestly and prayerfully as the “stranger” leads them to RESTORED FAITH. You too can be restored in faith as you read this message with a desire and a longing to meet the Master again!

The confession of lost faith in verse twenty one is very significant. *“But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”* (v21) We see here a picture of the heart-broken and frustrated disciples. They watch their Lord and Master delivered up to die and nailed to the cross by cruel hands. They had witnessed the burial and apparent death of all their hopes. The words, *“But we trusted”* plainly reveals that their faith was in the past tense. They HAD trusted but what now? They had watched their Lord and Master delivered up to die and nailed to the cross by cruel hands. They had witnessed the burial and apparent death of all their hopes. Had God really failed them? Had His promises deceived them? We say NO very emphatically! *“God is not a man that He should lie!”* (NUM 23:19)

Friend, is your faith of the “past tense” nature? Has the passing of time caused you to waver in your trust in His power and love? The disciples said, *“and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”* (v 21) The trial of our faith is on the third day. The fires of the third day experience are the hottest, but there only can we be perfected. Do not measure God's promises by days! Faith is not in the past but a part of the present! God is eternally *“I AM”*. After four days Jesus said to Mary, *“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”* (JOHN 11:40) Make your faith to be living, vibrant, powerful, as you realize that GOD IS! His nature, His love, His power and His Word are eternal and changeless! *“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day and for ever.”* (HEB 13:8)

The disciples were shaken in faith as the unprecedented circumstances belied their expectancy. Do not think that our ways are God's ways nor our methods God's methods. Many of our prayers are not answered because they pour from a heart that is not fully submitted to God. Prayer does not bring God on our side, we must be sure we are on God's side! Many times the glory of God is revealed after apparent conditions of defeat and hopelessness. Look through the darkness with the eyes of faith and you shall see beyond the purpose of God.

Do not serve or believe God for what He will do for you. Let your consecration be that of the three Hebrew captives as they defiantly answered the King, *“our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...But if not...we will not serve thy gods.”* (DAN 3:17,18) Oh, for the consecration and love to be able to say in the face of death, *“but if not.”* Let us not serve God conditionally but unreservedly. If our faith is of this nature, He will deliver, He will heal, He cannot allow such faith to be denied! Remember, temper your faith with submission and you will never fall away.

After Jesus had heard the conversation of the saddened disciples, He commenced to expound unto them in all Scriptures, the things concerning Himself. This is your next step. *“Eat the roll, and cause it to fill thy belly.”* (EZEK 3:3) God stands behind His Word. Jesus is in every page of the Word. He is the Word made Flesh. (JOHN 1:14) You will find Him in the Word. Restored faith will be yours as you allow the Word to become a part of you. Meditate on it day and night. Learn not only of God's mighty Acts, but learn His ways as did Moses. The next step is found in verses twenty-eight and twenty-nine. *“He made as though He would have gone further. ²⁹ But they constrained Him, saying, Abide with us....”* (vv:28,29)

Oh that we yearn with all our heart to have Him abide with us. Let the promise of His presence be the passion of your life! His Word declares, *“My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”* (EXO 33:14) *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* (HEB 13:5)

Let us remember that Christ will never force entrance. He waits to hear your invitation; He would have you constrain Him. Hold on in prayer as Jacob when he cried, *“I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.”* (GEN 32:26) If you cherish His presence, you may hear His voice saying, *“Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.”* (SONG 5:2)

Now we see a beautiful picture of Jesus coming into the home in the village of Emmaus to have supper with the lonely disciples. See Him as He sits at meat with them, watch Him as He takes the bread, blesses it and breaks it for them. *“And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight.”* (v 31) Jesus said, *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear*

my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” (REV 3:20)

After you have heard His voice and allowed Him to come in, place before Him the best in your life. many do not enjoy the close fellowship of Christ because they have held back and not freely given Him all. There must be no “bread” that you eat alone, no possession or love that is not sanctified by His. No part of your will must be closed to His influence. Allow Him to take the sacrifice of your life as He took the bread, allow Him to bless it, to break it, and then your eyes will be opened! You will see Him as He is! Your eyes will behold the King in His beauty! You will feel the resurgence of quickened faith in your bosom. You will have RESTORED FAITH! Receive it now, act upon it, and go with the consciousness of the lingering presence of God! Amen.