

The Way of the Lord

17. Your Relationship With Your Lord Jesus (Part 2)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who trusts in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

Our Lord Jesus IS the truth. If you HAVEN'T been experiencing greater things than He did, has it occurred to you that YOU may be the hindrance? The first place to look is inside yourself. Do you harbor doubt concerning ANY of our Lord's promises in the Bible? For instance, painful circumstances in your life may be diminishing your trust: *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You"* (Isaiah 26:3).

Are these just idle words? Or, does your heart rest in confidence that you can TRUST His promises in ALL situations in your life? The Hebrew word for trust is *emunah*. We discuss this in our Hebraic Article, *The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*, and in Segment 10 of our *Way of the Lord* series. *Emunah* is a word that's charged with emotion. It's your heartfelt confidence and unwavering trust in our Lord and His promises like the trust of a loving and grateful child.

Spiritual power begins with your wholehearted trust in our Lord Jesus AND in His promises. You can't experience spiritual power without the trust in Him that His Word calls for. ANY doubt nullifies spiritual power. Remember the account of Jesus walking on the water? (Matthew 14:23-32) He was displaying spiritual power and Peter, more than all the other apostles in the boat, wanted to experience it. But after he got out of the boat and felt the blustering wind, he was afraid, and began to sink. Jesus reached out and caught him. But He also rebuked Peter AND all of us who fear what's going on around us: *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Even if your faith is as small as a mustard seed, that trust in God enables you to exercise spiritual power. Our Lord WANTS His followers to trust Him for wisdom and guidance. But if you doubt He'll reveal that to you, you'll stay mired in UNbelief. Doubt keeps you from discerning God's perspective, and unbelief offends His character as a faithful Father! *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must trust and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in ALL he does"* (James 1:5-8).

Try to put yourself in our Lord's place. How would YOU feel if your followers distrusted you or your promises? All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you. You're King of kings and Lord of lords. How would YOU feel if the very ones you died to rescue doubted you? And what if they not only didn't believe you, but also put the trust YOU deserve in someone or something else? If you have a tendency to doubt our Lord, you need to take full responsibility for your sin, AND for the sorrow you cause in what should be the most trusting relationship in your life.

Trust is foundational to all intimate relationships. And distrust can be one of the most painful emotional hurts people face. Years ago a study revealed a particular, common cause of distrust. It starts with parents who fail to keep their word to their children. A parent is the first person a child learns to trust. If they can't trust their

parents, they learn to use manipulation and deceit to get what they want. And this behavior inhibits any genuine, close relationships when they become an adult.

Let's examine how this cycle of distrust progresses.

1. A parent habitually fails to keep his or her promise.
2. The child develops an emotional wound by which he distrusts that parent.
3. The child begins to withhold affection from the parent.
4. If the emotional wound isn't healed through repentance and forgiveness, the child rejects ALL authority and puts himself in control of his own life.
5. Over time he or she finds others who have chosen rebellion and pursues all kinds of sensual fulfillment.
6. Without the healing only our Lord Jesus can give, the grown child can't trust Him. Doubt keeps him from the very intimacy he longs for.

You may be one of those who are held captive in the prison of doubt. The way to freedom is to fully forgive in your heart those who caused you to doubt. You may even want to ask THEM to forgive YOU for the unforgiveness you've clung to for so long. You'll also find that your OWN emotional healing occurs faster if you can pray God's blessing on the people who've hurt you and caused you to doubt.

May our Father fulfill this prayer for each of you: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13). Your increasing joy, peace and hope are a sure sign that you're following the *way of the Lord*.

For Further Study:

- Teaching E-mail 36. *Are You Dancing Around Each Other?*
- Lifebyte 40. *Do You Confront For Jesus? Or, Placate For Satan?*
- Restoring the Early Church, Chapter 2: *The Hebrew Bible, The Old Testament—Basis for the Teaching and Practices of the New Testament*

Each is a free download on our website: <restorationministries.org>