



TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

STANDING YOUR GROUND

Dear Partners and Friends,

In seeking the Lord as to what He would have me to invest into your life this month, I can't seem to get away from the scripture in Ephesians chapter 6 verse 13 and 14 which says,

“and having done all, to stand, Stand therefore...”

I know there have been many times in my own life when I've been tempted to quit and give up because of not seeing the desired results as quickly as I would have liked. But one thing I have learned in God is patience. As long as I have his Word on the situation, **then I know** it is only a matter of timing, God's timing. Everything will work out okay. I am reminded of Romans 8:28 which says,

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

We all know too well that impatience is not a fruit of the spirit but often it shows up in people. I don't know how often you have run across this attitude of impatience, but it is very unpleasant to be around. Sure Christians should know better than to travel down this road, but the fact still remains people do get impatient. Have you ever been impatient? I believe this is due to a lack of maturity in God. It's like a little child who is promised something by his parents and continually nags them because of his impatience. The Word of God tells us in Hebrews 6:13 that,

“through faith and patience we inherit the promises.”

If I am actually in faith about a certain situation, then the problem lies not in me “wondering” whether I will get results, but rather in the timing – when will I see the manifestation of what I am believing God for? What else should I or could I do?

“and having done all, to stand, keep standing...”

I want us to look at a passage of scripture found in Matthew chapter 15 verses 21-28. It is the story of the Canaanite women whose daughter was vexed with a devil. I want to look at it closely with you and for you to “catch” the spirit of determination that this women had.

“21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.”

Imagine this women coming to Jesus with a genuine need, not selfishly for her own need, but sacrificially on behalf of her daughter. Notice the initial response as she approaches Jesus in verse 23,

“But he answered her not a word.”

Has it ever happened to you when you turned to God in prayer and “let your request be known unto Him,” that it seemed as though Heaven was silent? I know it has happened to me at least I thought. But when we get into the Word and come boldly before the throne of God, we suddenly discover that Heaven is never silent but on the contrary there is much activity. The Lord wants us to get off of the “feelings kick” and start to believe Him regardless of whether we feel anything or not. Just like we see illustrated with the Canaanite women. For some believers they think Heaven is silent because they don't **feel** anything. This is the furthest thing from the truth.

How have you responded when it “seemed” as though Heaven was silent and God was not answering? I know that some Christians misinterpret it as meaning **NO!** It's not **MY WILL!** But there are two very important factors that we sometimes forget:

- 1) When it “seems” as though Heaven is silent, it doesn't mean NO if we've approached Him with His Word.**
- 2) God will not turn away faith empty handed.**

Let's look at the first factor: **“When it “seems” as though Heaven is silent, it doesn't mean NO if we've approached Him with His Word.”**

The Word of God states in II Corinthians 1:20 that *“all the promises of God in him are yes, and in him Amen.”* When we come before the throne of God with his Word in our heart and in our mouth, then we already know what the outcome will be – **YES!** There is no room now left

for doubt and unbelief concerning the will of God because we've already settled that from the very start. What is left for us to do is to be **patient**. Every seed has a due season. Often what is happening while you are "waiting" is that the Lord is rearranging some things around and getting ready to do more for you than you have asked. Ephesians 3:20 tells us,

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"

Now let's look at the second factor: **"God will not turn away faith empty handed."** The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that God is a rewarder of faith. Faith is the ingredient that moves the hand of God in our behalf. The Word of God tells us in I John 5:14-15,

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Notice what this scripture says: "If we know that he hears us, we know that we have." That's positive isn't it? No room for guessing or chance. **If we know...then we have**. How do we have the answer if we can't see the answer? By faith. This is the only way you have what you've asked of Him – by faith! Now your faith is to be based entirely on His Word, not on your feelings or circumstances. So it would be scripturally correct to say, **"God's word takes the place of what you are believing Him for until you see the manifestation of it."** This means that I know that I have what I've asked of Him because I have His Word on the situation. For example healing – I Peter 2:24 reveals to me that healing is mine right now. Even though the doctor's report shows an enlarged liver, I have chosen to believe God's report that says, "I have been healed and made whole by Jesus' stripes." I have God's word of promise on the situation and now it is only a matter of time until the liver makes the necessary adjustment and comes into agreement with the Word of God.

Let's get back to the story. So Jesus' first response is silence whenever the Canaanite women approached him. Next, the ministry team of the disciples try and get rid of the lady. Not too nice is it. It would be like visiting a church for the first time and you approach the pastor with a genuine need and the ushers want to throw you out of the church with no explanation. You have to admit, this woman had determination. Having done all to stand, keep standing!

Finally we see Jesus respond to the woman but probably not how you might have expected. He answered and said, *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."* In other words, **"Sorry lady, you are the wrong race – you don't qualify."**

I'm sure by this stage in the game, many of us would have been offended by now and would be halfway back home never to return to such a cold church and a cold people. But this Canaanite woman was different. She was focused. She had what I call "sticktuativeness." She refused to be refused. She had bulldog tenacity.

"And having done all to stand, keep standing."

Her response was quite different to most people. Instead of leaving in a huff, she came and knelt before the Lord and worshipped Him! Now I don't know if you realize it or not, but when the Lord sees you on your knees worshipping him regardless of how you feel, regardless of how others have treated you, in spite of your circumstances, there will always come a response. When you don't know what else to do, worship God, stay in faith and don't give up!

This woman had only one more bridge to cross before she got what she came for. Notice Jesus' response to her in verse 26,

“It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.”

Now let's be honest, there is no way that came across as a compliment no matter how you look at it. I'm sure for most Christians that would have been the last straw. They would have let the flesh get the best of them and certainly lost control of the situation. But this woman did not. She did not take offense.

I'm sure when we have read this story before that many would have missed one of the major points and that is this: When this woman came to Jesus, yes she did have a genuine need but did not have the faith that she thought she had. What Jesus was doing the entire time was building up the determination of her faith in order for her to get the results she desired.

Let me put it this way: Sometimes when we come to God, we think we are in faith but we're not. We may be able to quote all the right scriptures and make all the right confessions, easily convincing others around us that we're in faith, but the truth is we're not. The true test comes when our heart is persuaded about a specific verse of scripture and we can actually see it coming to pass in our life. Circumstances, feelings, what others around us are saying are all irrelevant. What does matter is that my heart is persuaded about something that God has said in His Word.

Notice the women's response in verse 27,

“Yes Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

As far as this woman was concerned, the crumbs were enough to get her daughter healed. Jesus' response to this kind of faith was predictable,

“Then Jesus answered, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.”

Now stop and ask yourself this question. “If the crumbs that fell from the table were enough to get her daughter healed, then how about us?” We are not servants and outcasts but sons and daughters – children of God. We have a blood bought right to go right up to the table and enjoy everything on the table! I think this is where some Christians fall short – they do not understand the Lord's table. Remember what Psalms 23 and verse 5 says,

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”

Some misinterpret this scripture thinking that it has to do with the sweet bye and bye – when we all get to Heaven. But the truth of the matter is that this table has been prepared right in front of your enemies. There are no enemies in Heaven, only upon the earth. The unrighteous will only look upon the provision and blessing that is upon God’s children and has to admit, “We are blessed!”

Whatever you need friend God has made provision. If it’s healing, then pull up a chair and help yourself because I Peter 2:24 tells us, ***“by whose stripes ye have been healed.”***

If it’s provision, then pull up a chair and help yourself because Philippians 4:19 tells us, ***“But my God shall abundantly supply all your need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”***

If it’s peace you are lacking, remember John 14:27, ***“I leave peace with you; I give my peace to you: not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it fear.”***

I want to encourage you that whatever it is you have been believing God for, continue to stand firm on His Word of promise, refuse to doubt and waver, offer to Him the sacrifice of praise regardless of how you feel and don’t take offense! Jesus said that offenses would come, but don’t take offense.

“and having done all, to stand, Stand therefore...”

Well friend, I hope this month’s word has encouraged you to keep on keeping on. Remember when you have done all to stand, keep standing. It won’t take long until you see the desired result when you have a spirit of faith and determination. It truly is with faith and patience that we inherit and enjoy the promises of God! Please write and let me know how I can pray for you and stand with you. You are a blessing!

Your Friends and Partners

Todd & Eva