

Be Still and Know ©

By Asa S. Dockery

You may be in a situation right now that is causing you to want to run. However, I am asking you to be still, at least for a little while, until you read this message which I believe God has sent to you in this season.

Psalms 46:4-7 (NKJV): *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah*

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God. Out of our belly, Jesus said, flows that river of living water.

We have His Holy Spirit within us, and I believe the Spirit of God is speaking to you while you are reading this. If it seems you are in a place that you must take flight, God is speaking to you by His Spirit, for He is in your midst. He dwells in the midst of His people. You are His temple, the place of His dwelling. ‘And when He is in the midst of her, she will not be moved.’

God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The word says sorrow lasts for the night, but joy comes with the morning. God’s tender mercies and His loving-kindness are renewed every morning. He will help you, just at the break of dawn.

The Lord of hosts is with us. It is not just anybody that is with you but the Lord of hosts, Himself, is with you right now. He is right in the midst of your situation, or your circumstances. He is an ever present help!

Psalms 46:8-11 (NKJV): *Come; behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah*

Isn't this word awesome? It encourages us, does it not?

You see when trouble comes that is the time to be still and to know that He is God; yet, that is probably the hardest time for an individual to be still. A person was speaking recently of running the race of life with endurance. His focus was on the endurance part. Sometimes in running this race you can run into situations and problems you are not prepared for, and these situations or problems will weigh you down, they will distract you and discourage you. They want to cause you to throw up your hands in defeat and quit; but the Bible says to run this race with endurance for the joy that is set before you. So if you have things in your life that are wearing you down physically, emotionally, mentally, and yes, even spiritually, making you feel it isn't worth the pain, or worth the suffering, or even worth the living, then you have to have an *eternal perspective*. The place you are in now is *temporal and it is going to change*.

Gal 6:9 (KJV): And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Don't grow weary, there is going to come a due season! For in a due season you shall reap if you faint not so, the key here is not to faint. If we will be still, in these hard times, in these hard seasons we go through, God has promised to reveal Himself to us in the fires of life.

I was reminded, when He started giving me this, of the Jews. How they came out of Egypt and they were at the banks of the Red Sea and all of a sudden they see Pharaoh and his armies closing in, and they couldn't see anything but death. What did the Jews say to Moses? 'Have you brought us out here to kill us in this place, because there were no graves for us in Egypt?' All they had on their mind was death. They could not see beyond that moment. So they said, 'If I can't see deliverance then the only other option is to die! Bring an end to what I am doing. Bring an end to what is happening to me.'

And what did God tell Moses to tell the people? "Be still and see!" Isn't that amazing? When you feel as though you cannot handle it another minute; when you feel like running, or you feel like abandoning your responsibilities and going off and doing your own thing; God says at that time, when you feel like it is about over, 'This is not your time to run. It is time to be still!' And please hear me; *you won't be able to see until you are still.*

God said, 'Be *still and see.*' Only faith can cause you to be still when everything inside of you is screaming, 'Run!' And only when you become still in the presence of God, and begin to rely on Him, is He going to be able to open up a way where there seems to be no way. And

suddenly you can say, ‘This isn’t so bad now after all, is it?’ But, you won’t see this until you get still.

Let’s look in Luke chapter 7, and verse 13. Jesus ‘messes up’ funerals! People will not stay dead around Jesus for long. He was entering into a city called Nain, and a widow had lost her only son. She was very grieved, obviously, and the Lord came and saw her. Look at verse 13.

Luke 7:13 (NKJV): When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

And you know what she thought. ‘Who are You? And what do You mean, don’t weep? This is my only son, I just lost him. And You are telling me do not weep?’

Luke 7:14 (NKJV): Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Did you catch that? They stood still. Those who carried him stood still.

Luke 7:14-18 (NKJV): Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region. Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things.

This is the Messiah and He has just shown everyone there that He has power over death! Now the disciples of John the Baptist just happened to be there, and they have just witnessed what Jesus did. So they knew by the signs and wonders that Jesus was who He said He was, right? They have come to John and reported to him concerning all these things, according to verse 18. Then we come to verse 19.

Luke 7:19-20 (NKJV): And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Now wait a minute, these disciples just saw what Jesus had done. In this translation, the NKJV, it doesn’t really give an accurate or good portrayal of it; but literally in the Living Translation it

says those disciples that saw Jesus do these things came and told John what had happened but John didn't believe it.

Luke 7:19-20 (NKJV): And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

He did all these things when the disciples of John are standing there, right? And after Jesus accomplishes these things, He turned to John's disciples, and answered them.

Luke 7:22-23 (NKJV): Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*"

Now I like the Living Translation there too, because it says: **'Blessed is he who does not lose his faith in Me.'**

See John was in a situation. John was about to be beheaded. He was in prison because of His witness of Christ and now he has let offense come in. I want you to understand this is what the Holy Spirit is saying to us in this hour of great oppression, this hour when great opposition is coming against us. In this hour we need to guard our hearts from unbelief that is creeping in to the point we get offended and doubt even the validity of Jesus Christ, whom we have been saved by!

Does it not say that in the last days deception is going to be so great that were it possible it would deceive even the elect? So, the body of Christ cannot take this word and act as though we are having 'kiddie church'. We are not! This is your soul on the line!

If God is giving me the burden to tell the people to, 'Guard your heart!' then the enemy is probably up to something that is going to try to offend you! Something that will bring offense and rob you of your faith in Christ!

'Why I'd never turn my back on Jesus.' The word says in 1 Corinthians 10:12: Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Jesus said, 'Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me,' or 'Blessed is he who does not lost faith *in Me*.'

From the very moment you chose to place your faith in Jesus as being the Son of God you became blessed! You may not have felt like it, people may have treated you the same as they always had, but in God's eyes you became blessed. Not only are you blessed but you also became accepted as a child of God in the eyes of God. Then as His child you received all the benefits of being in His household and these benefits include eternal life. Do not allow the enemy to try to convince you that because you have trials and circumstances going on in your life that you don't have it going on yet; that God is not with you, and that God is not for you. If God is for you, then who can be against you? You may have to go through suffering, but you will come out victorious if you will hold to the promises of God! You are blessed! The moment you accepted Jesus Christ into your life; and you placed faith in Him, you became blessed! Don't believe anything differently. You are blessed!

It may not look like it in your bank account, you may have some health issues, you may have some mental issues, but you must understand God is with you! God is for you! He that began a good work in you is going to see it to completion! Stay in there! Don't allow yourself to grow weary.

The same truth that saves us can also cause many to become offended. Isn't that amazing? The same faith that causes some people to come to Christ and be saved will cause other people to say, 'I don't believe You are the One. I believe we need to look for somebody else.'

John the Baptist became offended in prison and questioned Jesus' identity, even though he had previously confessed publicly that He was the Christ. 'Behold', he had declared, 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world! I must decrease, and He must increase.' John knew He was the Christ, right? But the same truth that saved him is the same truth that now caused offense in him *when it cost him*. Be careful of what you value.

'I have a good reputation. I don't want to lose my reputation for God.' God says the only precious thing about you is your soul and spirit. Everything else about you is expendable. What you think of yourself is to be all for His glory. John became offended in prison and questioned Jesus' identity, even though he knew Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Now only through faith can we see Jesus **as the Christ** by the Spirit. Let me say that again for it is important. Only when we walk by faith, and not by sight, are we able to discern, to perceive and to know Jesus as the Christ according to the Spirit.

If we should allow unbelief to fill our hearts, because of something we have encountered or had to endure, that unbelief will hinder us from seeing His goodness. And if you are not careful you will begin to deny Him. Like John the Baptist, you may have to face some very trying times, but you must remember you are blessed and accepted by the Lord.

The world rejects you when Christ accepts you. When you are accepted in the Beloved you are automatically rejected by the world. You are no longer *of the world*. You are disassociated from the world because now you are associated with Christ, with the Cross, and with the Kingdom of God. People of the world will no longer like you.

Also like John the Baptist, you will have to face situations that your carnal mind and your human limitations won't be able to comprehend or be able to see a good outcome in. You may say, 'God, I see no benefit or any good thing in what I am going through.' Well, that is your human limitation. This is carnal mind at work in you. Faith gives you the ability to see beyond your own human limitations into **the eternal perspective**.

Faith gives you the ability to see beyond the human limitations you live under. When we are in hard places it is hard to grasp that there is goodness in them. You may be as the Jews, not able to see how God is going to work something good out of what you are going through in your limited perspective. You say you cannot see how God is going to turn this Red Sea experience; this experience with Pharaoh's armies behind you and the Red Sea in front of you, into a place of goodness. You are confident that you cannot see how God is going to bring good out of this. You look around and there is no hope, no alternative, only hardness and suffering. But God did! He brought goodness out of it for them, did He not?

You must be careful. Remember it is right at the break of dawn that God shows up. That is what He said in Psalms 46:5. You must be careful, because at the moment of breakthrough, you can break down. When you have done all that you can do just be able to stand, stand therefore!

We are going to have to face some things in this life that our human understanding will not be able to grasp. We will not, in our natural mind and eyes, be able to see any good in it, nor the potential for any good to come out of it. However, you must guard your heart with all diligence so that you do not lose faith. Your faith in Him is your Help. Your faith is the victory that overcomes the world. You must guard your heart so that you do not lose faith!

We have seen a lot of people lose faith along the way. We must therefore learn **now**, not later, not next year, we must learn now, how to be still when trouble comes. We must learn now how

to remain humble so we keep the faith, and through our submission to God's will, we become empowered to resist the devil and allow faith to triumph. That is a mouthful right there.

We have to learn now, how to remain submitted to God's will by faith so that when trouble comes we will be on guard and we will have the assurance that God will empower us to resist what the enemy is trying to do. The enemy turned John's heart, did he not? Satan turned his heart through offense. If he would have kept the faith God could have, and would have, shown him some things, but he got offended and began to lose his faith in weariness.

You may not recall this teaching a year from now, but it is getting into your spirit man on the inside. It is being hidden in your heart and is being sown into your spirit. When it is hidden in you then the Holy Spirit will reveal it to your spirit and you can overcome the desire to sin against it. You must be attentive to it. You must open up your heart to receive it when you hear it, then it can keep you when you have need of it. 'I am going to hide this one in my pouch because there is going to come a time when I know I will need this word. I will not discount it or let it slip away from me!'

Now, let's look in Hebrews and go on into some faith teaching.

Heb 11:1 (NKJV): 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Now faith does what? It gives you substance, (the material, the matter, the essence) of something you are hoping for, and the evidence, (the proof, the confirmation, the substantiation) of things not yet seen. You can be in a bad situation but if you have faith, if you will keep your faith, and if you will guard your heart, you will be able to say in confidence, 'I see no good in this but I know that God is good!'

I have personally had to hold on to that a lot in these times of trials, haven't you?

Psalms 27:13 (KJV): *I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*

I would have fainted, (NKJV says, I would have lost heart,) unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. There is something inside of a person's heart – everything can be going wrong, it can be total darkness – but there is something inside a person's heart that has faith that will say, 'Wait a minute! I still have substance in my heart for the things I am hoping for! I still have evidence in my spirit of things I cannot see!'

Though it looks like it is beyond hope, and though the enemy is telling me that it is not going to get any better, the faith in my heart says, ‘Go one more step! Go one more step!’ Then all of a sudden the crack starts opening up and light starts shining in! God arises and the enemies are scattered! Faith in God brings the reward!

Come on, praise God with me! This is a wonderful place to pause and give Him the praise and glory due His name!

We must overcome some stuff in this life for we live in a fallen world. But, glory to God we are a new creation, created again in Christ Jesus! Old things have passed away, yes, but we still live in a fallen world and the enemy is after our faith. But we have that blessed hope! We have faith! Though it looks like ten-thousand are against us, we will not fail! They will. We will look and see the destruction of the wicked, but it will not come nigh us! Faith gives you that determination, that ability to see the unseen!

‘I don’t know how you can go through what you go through and still be standing and smiling.’ Faith; faith is the only way. You may be going through a very hard season right now, and obviously you are, or God would not have me to share this word with you. You may not be able to see what you have to endure could possibly be used for good in your life and you may be questioning its purpose. When you are questioning within yourself, ‘How is what I am going through going to work out to my good? How is what my family and loved ones are going through going to work out to our good? How is God going to work this out to our good? I don’t see how He can bring any good thing out of this. It makes no sense to me.’ This is the moment you must guard your heart.

It is at this moment you must guard your heart. When you are seeing nothing but darkness; when you are seeing only the negative, now is when you must guard your heart with everything inside you. In the pain, the suffering and the discouragement you are going through the enemy is trying to get you to give up and to become offended at God. Stand still! Discouragement comes in only when the enemy knows you are tired and weak; when your hope is crumbling. He comes to hinder your faith from seeing that God is there at the dawning of your new day.

Discouragement comes when you are not seeing a change. It comes when you are not seeing something tangible, something of visible substance beginning to change. Discouragement comes in when you begin to listen to the wrong voice. You are tired of fighting. You are tired of holding on. He is there to whisper, ‘Give up. Give in. You know you had it better before. Remember all the leeks and onions in Egypt? Even though you were a slave, it was better than

here with the Red Sea in front of you and Pharaoh's armies behind you. So, what if you had to make bricks, at least you could cook a pizza on them and eat. Come on, come back to Egypt.'

Instead of losing faith and becoming offended you must choose. It is a choice of your heart. You must continue to hold on to Jesus. You must continue to hold on to His promises. You must hear the Holy Spirit bringing His word up into your spirit, bringing fresh hope and anointing. When you choose to hold on to Christ and His word you will be able to keep the faith, and your faith will keep you in God's favor.

Remember, when you believed **in** Christ, you stepped **into** Christ. When you stepped into Christ, you stepped into God's favor. So, if you keep the faith you will also keep the favor. The opposition that is coming up against you is also coming up against the church. The persecution that is coming against His church, of which you are a member, does not change nor negate the fact that we still have favor!

Look at Joseph. He went through seventeen years of pure torment. He was ostracized, sold into slavery, falsely accused, put into prison, and treated like an animal, yet he was blessed. 'You couldn't prove it by me! It doesn't sound like he was blessed to me!'

But read on. The favor of God **remained** upon him in all this because the word was **in** him. The persecutions came also, yes, but it came because the word was in him. We like the part that the favor comes with the word being in us, but as for the persecution, well, you can keep that part. No, Jesus said they have persecuted Me, therefore, they will also persecute you. Then what do we look at?

1 John 4:4 (NKJV): You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

You have overcome them! If I have, how did I? You have overcome them because Jesus Christ, who is in you, is greater than the enemies you are facing in the world. ***He overcame and you overcome in Him!*** Be still and see!

So, it is a choice and we must choose. We must choose to keep the faith. When we choose to keep the faith, then God's favor remains upon us. In exchange for our choice, God will use our faith to give us understanding and the ability to see His goodness in the land of the living. Then, we will begin to see the change we couldn't see before in the natural.

There is someone, I sense it in my spirit, that is about to give up. Don't! You are on the brink of the dawn! You are on the brink of your breakthrough! Hold on! You may be saying but why doesn't He do something *now*?

Because there is a place you need to break through. Note I didn't say, you need *a breakthrough*, but that there is *a place* you need *to break through*. If God comes and breaks you out prematurely, you will not have the strength to endure to the fulfillment. If He lets you endure, then you will have the strength. When you have the breakthrough then it will accomplish everything He intended for it to accomplish when you started going through it.

You must remember we also have an eternal reward we should be working toward. This world is not our final home. We are not going to remain here forever. Absent from the body, present with the Lord. In my Father's house are many mansions; He went there to prepare a place for you, that where He is there you may be also.

Jesus said in **John 14:1-6** (NKJV):

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"**

He is the way, the truth, and the life. If He is the way, then there is no other way, is there? He is the only way. There is no other. So, if we put our faith in Christ, and then we decide, no, He isn't the One, then there remains no other hope for us. Why does the enemy try to fight Christians who put their faith in Christ so much? It is because the enemy understands Christ is the only way and if he can get us to turn our hearts from Jesus then we are lost.

Jesus said I am the way. The only way one can come to the Father. I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. That narrowed the path, did it not? Only through Jesus are we able to receive grace from God to be saved from hell. Only through Jesus will we receive God's grace to be saved from torment.

When we face temporary fires in life we must keep and maintain an eternal perspective. This too will pass! And it came to pass! It isn't meant to stay forever! *An eternal perspective will*

guard our hearts from losing the faith and becoming offended at the only One who has the power to save us. Allow that to settle into your heart. *An eternal perspective* will guard our hearts from losing faith and becoming offended at the only One who has the power to save us.

Having an eternal perspective, Jesus suffered those things that were before Him for the joy of what would come. The joy of the eternal outcome was set in His heart and in His view. The hope of what was to come: the bringing in of many sons and daughters into the family of God. His faith kept Him, His faith in the Father and the hope of that which was promised. He endured the suffering, despising the shame, and is sat down at the right hand of the Father. His focus was on the eternal perspective. We too have to have an eternal perspective.

The best thing for the church in America right now is to get our eyes off this microwave mentality of 'I have to have it now'. This mindset of I have to have it now, will kill the person because of the suffering they will have to endure. I've got to have it now has no endurance in it. It does not build the quality to endure, or the ability to wait upon something.

Hire yourself a contractor. Pay him one-hundred percent of his charges up front. You will have the best friend you have ever had for about two days. After that he will forget your address. Why? He will forget you because you took away his incentive. When you preach a gospel that says God is going to give it **all to you now**, you are giving the people no incentive to suffer for the cause of Christ. People must hear the word which says **if we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him.**

If people do not hear the truth then how can they be prepared for adversity when it comes to try their faith? How can they know the truth that will ensure their faith fails them not? There must be incentive for the people of God, and the truth can only be spoken into their hearts by the Spirit of God. People must be told those who *suffer with Christ* are also going to *reign with Christ*. It is he that endureth to the end that will be saved. There is a hope! There is a victory that comes to those who wait on the Lord. I have a reward waiting for me. I am not getting it all now; I am not getting it all up front.

As a matter of fact He has only given us an earnest of our inheritance. He has given us an earnest, or down payment, of our inheritance until the day of redemption. At that time He will come and get the full possession of that which He paid for in full at Calvary. You are only going to get the down payment now. You do not get it all now, at once.

God wants you to have an eternal perspective, and it will give you the ability to endure these hardships, these hard seasons you are in, where God is strengthening you and where you are being brought to maturity.

What God showed me, in this next part I am going to share with you, astounded me. I know He is speaking to someone by His Spirit now because He gave me this.

Jesus was talking to His listeners about Him being the Bread sent from heaven. He spoke of the analogy of Moses and the manna sent from heaven in relation to Him being the Bread sent from heaven. The Jews gathered the physical manna and ate it for forty years, and then they died. Jesus said I am the Bread of life. I am not that bread which they ate and then died. I am the Bread of Life. And he who feed off of Me will never die.

And as He was sharing this truth, about Him being the Savior, not a temporal fix but an eternal restoration, some people became offended at Him. **So the same truth that saves people offends people.**

Let's look at the scriptures.

John 6:59-60 (NKJV): These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

What had Jesus said?

John 6:55-58 (NKJV): He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

And those listening to Jesus jumped right on that and said, 'that is some really good teaching there Master.' NOT!

John 6:60 (NKJV): Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

Therefore many of His, His own disciples said this. They were not operating in faith, they were getting their understanding from the natural mind, and they could not see it. They could not understand His words.

John 6:61 (NKJV): When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"

His disciples complained about what He had said. Jesus' response to this was to ask them, does this offend you? Jesus was teaching a truth here and just like John the Baptist they were offended by it.

John 6:62 (NKJV): *What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?*

Now that question really nailed it! Now He is calling Himself the Son of the Living God! He is saying He is from heaven!

John 6:63 (NKJV): *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

The words that He speaks to you are spirit and they are life. So only those who hear what is being said now, by the Spirit by faith, can hear what God is saying to them and understand it.

John 6:64 (NKJV): *But there are some of you who do not believe.*" For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

Please notice that they became offended, not because of what Jesus said. If you read it literal then it appears to the *natural mind* that is what offended them. When Jesus said if you do not eat My flesh and drink My blood you will die, it appears that is what offended them, right?

That's not true. It was the *spiritual truth* they became offended over, not the saying. They got offended because they didn't **believe in Him**. The stumbling block was there because they did not believe Him when He said He was the Son of the Living God.

When truth offends a believer, a Christian, it is not the truth that offended them *it is the unbelief in their heart that would not receive the witness of the Spirit.* Let me repeat that. When truth offends a believer, a Christian, it is not the truth that offended them it is the unbelief in their heart that would not receive the witness of the Spirit.

I can say things to the members of our church and get by with it because they know me by the Spirit. They will laugh with me because they know my heart. They have learned my spirit. But individuals on the internet watching do not have that relationship with me. When they see me cutting up they say I am arrogant, stuck-up and snobbish because they are not familiar with my personality and spirit.

If you know Christ then the Holy Spirit will bear witness with the truth that Jesus is speaking for that same Spirit dwells in you. But those who do not know Christ, they do not have the Witness within them. They will assume the opposite of the truth He is speaking and will become offended by it.

You are saved by faith. So, if you and I truly believe Jesus is the Son of the Living God then nothing will be able to separate us from Him. Jesus is the anchor of the word of God. We have to place our faith in Him. He is the only way to the Father and when we place our faith in Him we are then secured. We are eternally secured. When I believe that, when I really, really know that, then it will keep me in every type of situation and storm. Nothing will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing will be able to separate you if you really know this in your heart.

Why? Nothing will be able to separate me because I believe in Him as being the Truth. So as long as we guard our heart from offense then we will never be separated from Him. And not only that, the word brings to us the very promises of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing of the ear comes by the Spirit, and through the hearing of the word you get the promises.

Therefore we do not only accept Jesus as the Word incarnate, the Son of God, **we must also accept His word as being truth**. When we accept His word as being truth, His Spirit will bear witness with the word as being true, and we have this confirmation within us. We know that which we believe is truth and not a lie. We have a witness.

We have a Witness within us. This is not blind faith. God says the truth that we have heard is true, believe it. God bore witness to the preaching of the gospel. He confirmed the word by the Spirit with demonstrations of signs and wonders. He still confirms the word.

The Holy Spirit comes as the Comforter to confirm what Jesus has spoken as being the truth to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. That is why Christians that really believes in Jesus Christ, that really believes He is the Son of God and believes that His word is infallible, are not easily shaken.

You must understand one important truth about your faith in Jesus as being the Son of God, His transforming power. Your faith has saved you and transformed you into a child of God. It changed you. He didn't rebuild you. He didn't put a band-aid on you. He changed you. You are no longer of this world, but you have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. This is where your opposition comes from. This is what places you at odds with the world. This is what causes you to suffer persecution for His name's sake. You have been made a new creation in Christ Jesus and now your home is of His world.

So when you face persecution and doubts try to creep into your heart, remember that this is not your battle. God has not forsaken you! The battle belongs to the Lord! You are *in Christ*, you were buried *in Christ*, and you arose *in Christ*. It is therefore Christ's battle! You and I then, have to be still and allow Him to show us how to maneuver our way out of this. It is His battle. The sooner we realize this, the quicker we will be victorious *in it* and be delivered *from it*.

Also know that the world's rejection and persecution against you is just another indicator that you belong to God! This sentence is enough for you to shout on!

The world hates you, the world rejects you, and they persecute you but these are just indications that you belong to God! You don't fit in the same places or with the same people anymore. You belong to God.

John 6:61-63 (NKJV): *What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.*

You must have faith to grasp this and to understand it. Our flesh, our natural mind cannot grasp it, but the spirit man can.

John 6:63 (NKJV): *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

Because we have placed faith in Jesus not only are we saved and separated from this world, we also have the ability to know and understand spiritual truth that the world does not know. Isn't that good?

You can read this and grasp it because you have faith. Your faith gives you the ability to understand the power of the Holy Spirit. Your spirit man, your heart, says, "Wow! I get that!" The carnal, the natural mind, can be thinking, I don't get that at all.

I could go to a business forum where secular business people are and teach these principles and they will look at me as one of the dumbest people they have ever seen. What I would be teaching them would be foreign to them. They would say they cannot grasp it, that it makes no sense whatever, because there is no spiritual faith in them. They are of the natural mind and their focus is on self and self achievement.

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability through faith to know and understand spiritual truths that the world does not know. Those who reject Jesus can't see what we can as His children. We are the children of His household, of His faith, of His kingdom and of His truth.

When the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us from the word of God we call that revelation knowledge. Knowledge that is revealed by the Spirit becomes spiritual meat to our soul. God's word is alive and when we ingest His word into our hearts through obedient faith then it imparts life into our soul.

When we listen and obey the word of God and implement it into our lives, it comes alive in our soul and *we are able to experience the very God that the world says does not exist*. I love that.

When I have faith in Jesus Christ though I have afflictions, and many are my afflictions but the Lord delivers me out of them all, even though I have these afflictions because I have faith in Jesus, I experience the Living God that the world says does not exist! So *while they have 'an argument' to the existence of the Living God, I have a testimony!* I know in Whom I have believed! He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day! I am never at the mercy of their arguments because I have a *living testimony!*

You have something valuable when you place your faith in Jesus. The world and Satan does everything in their power to try to discount the value of Jesus in your life. 'He is not worthy. You don't need to honor Him.' Yes I do! Had it not been for Him and the Cross where would I be? I need to honor Him! I choose to honor Him!

1 John 1:1-3 (NKJV): That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

That you may have fellowship with us, can they have fellowship without the teaching and preaching of the word? No. So what did the word do? We are begotten through the word. Isn't that what it says?

You are begotten through the word which you have heard. It has saved your soul. It put you into Christ, and now when the gospel is preached and others hear the preaching of the gospel they now have fellowship with us. They can relate to us through that word. The centerpiece then is Jesus and the word. He is the center and the word is the common thread for all believers. Every man is common in Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3 (NKJV): That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:4 (NKJV): And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

What was the last prayer Jesus prayed before He went to the cross? Father that they may be one, even as We are One. He begets every person that believes in the word and makes them the children of God. Now we are the family of God and we have this fellowship one with another because we have the same understanding and like faith. There is the unity.

So you see in the midst of all these afflictions, fiery furnaces and trials the Lord is doing a work. He is unifying the body of Christ. Satan would come in and try to separate and divide the body of Christ through unbelief but there is something we can do. What, you ask? I'm glad you asked.

This word which I have heard, that I have hidden in my heart, has saved me and nothing is more important or of more value to me than that word. People may get offended, they may get ticked off at God but we must refuse to. We must choose to remain humble and contrite and to know that His word is going to save us out of this.

Therefore, we must never lose faith in Jesus as the Christ. We must never lose faith in His word lest we die. Faith in His word causes us to have fellowship with the Father and Jesus, as well as with one another. This is the faith that overcomes the world!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Reader, if you know that the Holy Spirit is ministering to you through these words, telling you not to give up, please listen to His drawing of your heart. I know it may seem everything is against you, and your heart and mind may be saying it isn't worth the cost. But the Holy Spirit is telling you, the person who endures to the end will be saved, will be delivered and will be healed. If this is speaking to you now, please listen and come to Him. Simply bow your head and allow Him to touch you, to strengthen you, to heal you and raise you from the depths of lost hope into full restoration in Jesus Christ. I am going to pray for you and with you now.

Father, thank You for what You are doing in the life of this individual. You have fed them with the spiritual manna that those which came out of Egypt did not have. This spiritual manna gives us the ability to have fellowship and common union with You. It gives us the ability to know You. We may not understand the fullness of it yet and we may not understand the things we go through a lot of times, but there is one thing we do know. We know and are confident that You are with us and that we have a hope through You. And because we have that hope, we can endure steadfast to the end; knowing there is a reward laid up for the righteous, and a crown of life that You give to all who overcomes the temptations of this world.

Father, I ask Your Holy Spirit to touch this individual right now with the healing virtue of Christ Jesus. To heal their broken heart and soul, to establish them in Your word and to bring them into the life they have in You. Hide this word in their heart. Give them strength to overcome through faith in Your word that they are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus who gave Himself for them. Give them the strength and the faith to submit to You, to resist the enemy and to allow You to fight their battles as they stand still and wait upon Your presence.

Father, they are not alone in their suffering for we suffer like things in this world. Remind them Holy Spirit that they are not isolated and alone as the enemy would try to make them believe. For we know Jesus that You are touched by the feelings of their infirmities and by the stripes

You bore at Calvary they are the healed, not only in spirit but also in body, soul and mind. They are complete in You. They are of the household of faith and in that faith is their victory over every affliction, every enemy and over every crisis they face.

Father, I am asking that any individual reading these words will allow You to seal their hearts until the day of Redemption that they not lose faith and become offended, but that they stand still in You and see Your mighty hand in their situation, in their circumstance or in their crisis. Restore them and heal them is our prayer. May they increase in understanding as they turn to You and yield their hearts to hear Your word. Let them break through whatever is interfering in their walk with You and restore unto them the joy that is found only in You. We thank you in advance for the confidence we have that our prayer has been heard and that You are in their midst, working all things to the good and for Your purpose and will in their life. We give You all the glory and honor as we call it done in Jesus' name. Amen.

If you have a special need or prayer request, you can contact us at our email address or at our office address listed below. We will be glad to hear from you and pray over it. Our intercessory team joins us in prayer daily for the needs and requests we receive. Let us lift up the feeble hands together and bind up the hurts before offense comes to divide and separate our family, the body of Christ.

If you have not yet become a member of the household of God, or if you have grown away from the Father and need to rededicate your life to Him, please won't you take that step now to enter into His presence and know the joy of being His very own child?

Won't you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised His Son Jesus from the dead and that Jesus died to give you eternal life and to remove your sin? Simply believe this, surrender your life to Him and receive His forgiveness. When you do this, the Bible says in Romans 10:8-10, you will be saved.

If you need to rededicate your life to Him, surrender your will and life to Him, confess your sins, accept His forgiveness and He will forgive you and receive you again.

If you have made either decision, please contact us and let us know. We will be glad to send you material about salvation and rededication. We would also like to enclose a CD or DVD, free of charge, to encourage you and to welcome you into the family of God.

Thank you for joining us in this word. We pray you were blessed and encouraged.

Pastor Asa Dockery