

Volume 6, Day 1: Faithless Prayer for Healing

The miracle that God did at the Detroit Rescue Mission back in 1984 gave me absolute confirmation of my belief, as my faith became sight. After preaching sincerely to those men who had come in off of the streets to get a free meal, two men came up to me and asked me to do something I had never done.

Normally, I would not even have done what I did. The man with a broken shoulder, who could not even move his arm, asked me to pray for him. I had had a fractured shoulder bone when I was a teenager, so I recognized that his was an actual broken bone. I said something like – “pray for you?? Man you need a doctor!!”

The man who had come up with him said something like – “hey man, we’re on the streets, we can’t afford a doctor, would you pray for him preacher?” Normally, I would have told him that I would take him to a doctor, and pray for God to guide the physician in treating him; but instead of thinking that thought, I put my hand on his good shoulder and prayed, “Father, I would like you to heal this man, in Jesus name.”

As I opened my eyes from praying, I was amazed. The man stood there swinging his arm freely, and with his eyes wide open, he was saying, “I am healed!” The man next to him had his eyes wide open and was saying, “He’s healed!” I had my eyes wide open now saying, “Wow, he's healed.”

I cannot say that God did this miracle because of my faith that He would do it. I believe He did it to give me that absolute confidence in the 66 documents that are included in the Holy Bible.

My confirming Scriptures: My aligning experiences

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

Volume 6, Day 2: The Most Penetrating Question

Jesus asked Peter a question that hurt his feelings. Like Peter we might be initially silent. Our human nature and individuality declares what or who we love. But the actual love we have toward another person is only discovered by the hurt of the question, "Do you love me?" This is true of love for another person or love for God. Peter loved Jesus in the way in which any natural man loves a good man. It is based on how pleasant the other's personality and expressions of themselves are to me. I may think that I have a deep love for the individual, but the love does not penetrate the surface impressions of the person. Love at this level has not been tested by deeper more intimate truth about the other person. True love does far more than profess verbally any affection for the other being. Jesus said, "Whoever will confess Me before men ..." What this means is to express your love not merely by your words, but also by everything you do regardless of what the other does or says.

Unless we are deeply hurt by the question, "Do you love me?" to the point that every doubt we might have about that love is gone, we must seek evidence in our actions that the love is true. We may say that we love God enormously, but our actions which indicate that God is not having His desires satisfied in us betray our confession as false. The word of God hurts as no sin can ever hurt because sin actually numbs feeling.

This question coming from the Lord intensifies feeling, until being hurt by Jesus is the most exquisite hurt conceivable. It hurts in a profoundly personal spiritual way. The word of the Lord pierces even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit so that there is no deception left in us. Such hurt will continue until the love for God is genuine and complete. The point of each hurt feeling is to bring revelation that at some level our love is more for us than for God.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

Volume 6, Day 3: Is Jesus Your First Love?

Have you felt the hurt of the Lord to the place where the real sensitivity of your life is lodged? The devil never hurts there, neither sin nor human affection hurts there, nothing goes through to that place but the word of God. Peter was awakening to the fact that in the real true center of his personal life he was devoted to Jesus, and he began to see what the patient questioning meant. There was not the slightest strand of delusion left in Peter's mind. He never could be deluded again.

There was no room for passionate utterance, no room for exhilaration or sentiment. It was a revelation to him to realize how much he did love the Lord, and with amazement he exclaimed, "Lord, You know all things!" Notice that Peter did not say, "Look at this!" to confirm it. Peter was beginning to discover that there was no one in heaven or earth beside Jesus Christ; but he did not know it until the probing, hurting questions of the Lord came. The Lord's questions always reveal me to myself.

The patient directness of Jesus Christ with Peter! Our Lord never asks questions until the right time. Jesus will get us into a corner where He will hurt us with His undeviating questions, and we will realize that we do love Him far more deeply than any profession can ever show. Otherwise we will face the fact that Jesus is not our first love. And, to be sure, we cannot effectively communicate to others something we do not possess! Reflect on your daily consistent actions and attitudes. In them lies the irrefutable evidence of the objects of our genuine love!

The heart is the only organ with which we can know and experience love. Exercise it frequently. The more you receive of God's love the more you can offer to others. And it is only God's love in the Holy Spirit within you that will draw others to God!

My Confirming Scriptures:

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Vol 6, Day 4: God's Love, Not Yours, Will Satisfy Them

This is love in the making. The love of God is intimate. It is God's nature. It is His very essence. 1 John 4:8 states, "... God IS love!" When we receive the Holy Spirit He unites us with God so that His love is expressed in us. When the soul is united to God by the indwelling Holy Spirit that is not the end. The end is that we may be one with the Father as Jesus was. What kind of oneness did Jesus Christ have with the Father? Such a oneness that the Father sent Him down here to be spent for us, and He says – "As the Father hath sent Me, I send you in the same manner." And that manner is love so all consuming that it even extends to those who hate us.

Peter realizes now, with the revelation of the Lord's hurting question, that he does love Him; then comes the point – "Spend it out." Don't testify how much you love Me. Express that love fluently and unreservedly. Don't waste time talking about the marvelous revelation you have had. Just - "Feed My sheep." And the food that they all need and want most is the Love of God!

Jesus has some extraordinarily funny sheep, some bedraggled, dirty sheep, some awkward, butting sheep, and all of the sheep have gone astray! It is impossible to exhaust God's love. It is impossible to diminish that love in me if it springs from the one center, the Holy Spirit. The love of God pays no attention to personality, that is, the distinctions made by natural individuality. If I love my Lord, I have no business being guided by natural temperament and affinities. I just have to feed His sheep. There will never be any release from this commission. Beware of counterfeiting the love of God by working along the line of natural human sympathy, because that will end in blaspheming the love of God.

Your own love is insufficient to deliver a God-like, unconditional affection to others. Your new nature is the presence of the Holy Spirit not a cleaned up, made-over human nature. Learning to be fully surrendered to the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) in you is the only way to dispense the love of God!

My Confirming Scripture: My Aligning Experiences:

Vol 6 Day 5: Who or What Motivates Me to Service?

It is easier to serve God without a vision from Him. It is easier to work for God without a call to His specific ways and means. This is because you will not be concerned about what God might require. Common sense will be your guide in ministry just like in personal and vocational pursuits. Yet you will veneer over your common sense with 'Christian' prayers and Biblical sayings.

You will be more prosperous, successful, and light hearted, if you never realize the call of God. But if once you receive a specific directive from Jesus Christ, the memory of what God wants you to do, and how He wants you to do it, will always come like a blinding reminder. You will no longer be able to work for Him on a common-sense basis.

What do I really hold dear and valuable? If I have not been completely gripped and overwhelmed by Jesus Christ, I will count service for Him to be dear. I will consider my time given to God as dear. But that is to hold my life dear unto myself and Him in second place at best. Paul said that he counted his life dear only in order that he might fulfill the ministry he had been dispatched by God to do. He refused to expend his energy on any other thing. Acts 20:24 notes Paul's absolute annoyance at being asked to consider his own agenda.

A true disciple of Jesus is absolutely indifferent to any consideration other than that of fulfilling the ministry he has received. Practical work is most often a fierce competitor of abandonment to God. Practical work is based on this, "Think of how useful you are here."- or - "Consider how much value your talents would be in that particular type of work."

That attitude does not put the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ as the Guide for where you go, but rather puts yourself based on your own assessment as to where you could be of most use. Never consider whether you are of use; but ever consider that you are not your own but His.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

Volume 6, Day 6: Where Is My Loyalty?

Joy comes with the perfect fulfillment of that for which I was created and redeemed, not the successful completion of a particular task or project. The joy of Jesus Christ came by doing what the Father sent Him to do. It was this "... joy that was set in His mind..." in His redemption of mankind from the consequences of sin that caused Him to overcome His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and deliver Himself to crucifixion.

Jesus said, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so am I sending you." Have I received God's inspiration for ministry from the Lord? If so, I must be loyal to it. Because of my loyalty in love for God, I will count my life precious only for the purpose of fulfilling that ministry. Think of the satisfaction it will be to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." to know that you have done what He sent you to do.

We have all hope to find our niche in life. Spiritually, we find it when we receive our ministry from the Lord, not our own creativity. In order to do this, we must have become very intimate with Jesus! We must know Him as more than just a personal Savior. I must get beyond my desire to serve Him painlessly. I must be willing "... to endure the great things I must suffer for His sake."

I do not get to choose my place and means of service. I only choose absolute loyalty to Jesus' commission or to my own pursuits. I must be loyal to what I discern when I am in closest contact with God. If I have received a ministry from the Lord Jesus, I will know that the need is never the call. The need is the opportunity. The call is loyalty to the ministry I received when I was intimately in touch with Him.

This does not imply that there is a campaign of service marked out for you, but it does mean that you will have to ignore the natural inclination for service along any other lines.

My Confirming Scriptures

Aligning Experiences:

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Volume 6, Day 7: Enthusiasm in the Mundane

Nothing short of Almighty grace enables me to take the next step when there is no miraculous vision or audience to applaud me. The next step in spiritual or secular pursuits when there is no personal affirmation or accolades available, takes the very grace of God to motivate me. The next step takes the "... lamp unto my feet" of the Holy Spirit's guidance and the "light unto the path" of God's choosing for me.

The next steps in any direction or avenue of life, the direction of understanding, devotion and intimacy are energized by the unconditional love of God alone. And it is His unconditional love for me that invokes God's favor upon me in moments when I have failed Him miserably. It takes more grace to operate invisibly and anonymously than to be the most eloquent, successful evangelist for the Gospel.

Every Christian in a very personal way must partake of the essence of the incarnation of Jesus. We must live real flesh and blood practical lives as though we were God in the flesh to others. We falter when there is no miraculous vision from God. We slack off when there is no one to cheer us on or applaud our efforts. We languish in doing the mundane, common, and trivial tasks. We stop when there is no personal benefit to motivate us.

The thing that tells the story of our motives in the long run for God and for men is the steady persevering work in the unseen places. The only way to keep from being crushed is to live every moment looking to God's and only God's approval. Ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the reality of the Holy Spirit of the Risen Christ within you. When He does, it will be impossible for drudgery to dampen your enthusiasm for the work at hand. Remain connected to the vine as in the fifteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel and the fruit will appear.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences: