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VIRTUAL

With all the complex issues facing us today, we need to ask: What does the Word say?— and then follow those instructions. Seeing the situation, the issue, or the temptation facing us through the lens of the Word, is accepting by faith what Jesus says in Scripture. It is not what we see with our natural vision, but what we see with spiritual vision.

God asked Jeremiah 24:3 "What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil." The good figs represent those who return to the Lord 7 "With their whole heart" in repentance and faith; and the evil figs represent all those who do not return to God and do not repent of their sins.

To look in the direction of the *Word* is to see things from the *Lord's* viewpoint—with *victory* and *blessings* in sight; but looking in the direction

of the *world* is seeing things from the devil's perspective—with *defeat* and *loss* as the result. What we see *spiritually* soon becomes a *reality*!

If we see things as the Word of God says they are, we see *protection*, *prosperity*, *health*, *healing*, and *victory*; but if we see things as Satan says they are, we will see *defeat*, *disease*, *problems*, *poverty*, and *pain*. What we *think* the situation to *be*, is really what we *believe* in our heart.

It is the same with finances—if we see victory, we will have the money; if we see defeat, we will be short; if we see Jesus as resurrected to life, we will know Satan is defeated. We first present the situation to God—then we James 4:7 "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." What we believe in our heart is what we eventually see in our life.

After praying, God's Word says it is *true*; but Satan says it is *not true*. If we believe it *is* absolutely true, it *will* be true—but if we believe Satan and that it is *not* true, then it will *not* be a reality. We are to *see thru the Word* and believe in our heart that God is always faithful to His Word.

We must ask what the *Word* says, and believe that the Word of God *is* absolutely true. Proverbs 4:20 "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings." Whose word we give our attention to and what we believe to be a fact, makes all the difference. We pay no attention to what Satan suggests—but give all attention to what God has promised!

We incline our ears only to what *God's* Word is saying and accept as true what *He* has promised. We do *not* accept *nor* believe anything Satan suggests. Proverbs 4:20 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

It is so easy to let God's Word *slip* from our mind—we often *attend* to the Lord's *promises* for

a *little* while, and then give our *attention* to the devil's *suggestions* for a *long* while. If we accept Satan's lies as true, we will see *darkness*, *defeat*, and *unanswered* prayers—physically, spiritually, financially, in the home, and with everything else.

Too often we are seeing through the *lies* of the devil and not thru the *lens* of the Word. If we accept the lies of Satan, we see lack of supplies; no house to rent; no vehicle to drive; no work in sight; the physical oppression no better; disobedient children, and defeat with everything. What we willingly *believe* is what we *receive*.

What does the Word say—is the question. The blind received sight when they believed the Lord. Jesus asked them Matthew 9:28 "Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened." That is seeing victory through the Words of the Lord; and not defeat through the lies of the devil.

If our boss gives us *instructions* that we are to do just what his manager said to do, then we must pay close attention to the *words* he says and not listen to words from anyone else. God says we are to pay attention to *His Word* Proverbs 4:20 and *not* to the devil's lies.

The greatest advice we can be given is that God's Word *means* what it *says*. We are to not *look away* from, and not allow ourselves to *drift away* from, His words; Proverbs 4:21 "Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

God's Word gives spiritual *life*, physical *healing*, *peace* in the home, *deliverance* at work, *blessings* in finances, and *victory* in all things. We are to pay attention to *this* marvelous advice and *not* to Satan's suggestions—because if we listen to *his* lies the reverse results—we continue to be

oppressed; our peace is *gone*; problems *persist* at work; and we suffer *defeat* in other things.

Satan does not enter by the door, but *Climbs* over some other way John 10:1 because he "Is a thief and a robber." And John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy: I have come that they may have Life, and may have it in abundance."

The moment we offer a *prayer*, Satan presents his *lie*—suggesting: the deliverance is *not* received; there is *no* peace; the prayer will *not* be answered; and everything is just as it was. If we accept what *he* presents, we have allowed God's *Word* to *depart* from our heart. But *The Word is* the *Way*—Proverbs 4:22 "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

The centurion knew that the Word was the Way. A loved one was ill, so he went to the Lord. Matthew 8:6 "Sir," he said, "my servant at home is lying ill with paralysis, and is suffering great pain." Jesus said 7, "I will come and heal him." The Lord would visit his home and heal the servant, but the centurion said, Matthew 8:8 "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."

Jesus marveled at the man's faith in His word—the centurion believed that any Words from the Master would be true. If Jesus would say the servant was already healed, the man would believe and act on those words. We can be sure that the devil was not on vacation when the centurion spoke with the Lord. Satan would be suggesting many things to the man—just like Satan does today—Do not believe it; Do not be deceived; Just words would not heal the servant; Jesus is not able to do that.

The centurion refused to accept any lies or thoughts from the devil, and was willing to see thru the lens of the Word of the Lord. He believed that Jesus' words meant what they stated—there was power in His Word. Jesus says Matthew 8:13 "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done

unto thee,"—or: Since you are willing to accept My words in faith, then your servant is healed by that same faith in God."

Jesus presented a *healed* servant; Satan pictured a *sick* servant. Every step on his way back home, the centurion would have had to *hold* on to, or *keep*, the words Jesus spoke in memory. He did not allow his eyes to *look away* from that Word—and we can imagine that he repeated over and over Proverbs 4:21 "Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;" which resulted in Matthew 8:13 "His servant was healed that same hour."

The battle of faith is often like a pendulum of a clock—back and forth; yes and no. God's Word says "Yes;" and Satan's lies say "No." God's Word says the victory is won; Satan says the battle is lost. God says the prayer is answered; the devil says it is not answered.

Wherever the pendulum of the clock *stops*, that is what the devil wants us to *see* and *accept*. We are not to accept Satan's "No," but only God's "Yes." ² Corinthians 1:20 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

The centurion saw his servant well and held onto God's Word—that says Proverbs 4:20-22 "Attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

Bible examples reveal that healing is *not* received *from* God, until they were willing to believe the *Word of* God. A house was packed to the doors with people listening to the words of Jesus—however, not one person received healing, except the one who was *seeing through the Word*, and believed that his sins *were* forgiven—Mark 2:5; Luke 5:25; Matthew 9:7 "He arose, and departed to his house."

Most religious organizations and ministries do not teach the Truth about seeing through the lens of God's Word; believing in our heart, and then acting on His promises. The minute Satan sees we are holding onto the Word, he tries to get us away from it, and to steal it out of our heart. Therefore, if we hold onto the Word, we can have the victory that is promised.

Abraham was promised a son against all human possibilities, but he looked at the *Word* and not at his age or the situation—so a son was given. God's words are so important— "Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart." Abraham knew The Word is the Way so he received the promise.

Another example shows *how* to accept what the Word says. This man's son was seriously oppressed, so he begged Jesus to visit his house. Jesus replies John 4:48 "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe"—or, you have more confidence in what Satan is saying, than what God is saying. It is no use for Me to visit your house—if you cannot believe My Words in faith.

Jesus did, however, give the man words he could *take* for the victory—if he *chose* to do that.

John 4:50 "Go thy way; thy son liveth." On the way home, the devil would have pictured the reverse of what Jesus had promised—the devil never gives up easy. But the man "Believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him, and he went his way."

He asked *What does the Word say*; believed what it said, and *saw* his son fully *delivered*.

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www.fcgchurch.org
*Be on our free mailing list—contact:
PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120
info@fcgchurch.org #2939 0418 21A