

WAVERING FAITH- HINDERS VICTORY

S136R

WED/11/24/2021

(S234R)

A wavering faith is and can be, a serious hindrance to victory. That might sound like a small thing and not of much importance, but it is hindering answers to prayer in the Christian life more than any one thing (the late Pastor said). It has caused more battles, and prolonged more battles than any one thing, and it will prolong battles along any line. It will prolong our spiritual battles, our physical battles, and (as mentioned), even be the cause of our battles, as it enables Satan to fight us to a stand-still and eventually defeat us, if this 'wavering faith' in our heart is not eliminated.

The Scriptures describe this spiritual condition of the human heart. (James 1:6), "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man" (meaning the one with a wavering faith) "think that he shall receive anything from the Lord."

The truth about a wavering heart is, that when we started out, we had not decided in our heart to go all the way through with God. We had only decided to experiment, and if things do not go as we desire, or according to our ideas, or the battle gets a little tougher than we expected, we will turn back and not continue on a path toward victory.

The waver in our heart has come about through that old traitor, 'self'. That waver would never have gotten into our heart or mind, we would not have gotten into that battle, we would never have gotten to where things did not go to suit us if we had "started out right" with the determination not to waver.

There is not a victory or answer to prayer which will not be received, if we have an unwavering heart, ... but the wavering is just what prolongs the battle; it hinders God from answering prayer. "Let not that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord."

That does not mean that we will never receive, rather, that we cannot receive with a waver in our heart. Until we have settled it finally to go all the way through with God (at any cost), God is unable to answer our prayer, or show his power in our behalf. Along every line, spiritually, physically, financially, and in our homelife; that is what has hindered a victory, opened a door to Satan, and shut the door to God's power. That is a dreadful spiritual place to be in.

Our wavering heart reveals that we are on the fence and have not settled to go all the way with God on some particular line (or lines). Of course, Satan always has his arrows ready to attack, (and he is a splendid marksman). He cannot shoot you when you are on God's side; you need not fear, for there is no 'fiery dart' that can go through God. If you are unsettled or undecided, it just opens the door to Satan, and shuts the door to the power of God.

If you were traveling and came to cross-roads, and you would walk

up the road to the right hand, and after a while say; "This does not look right," and would turn back and go toward the left, and after a while say ; "Well this looks just the same, I had better go back again," You would never get anywhere until you settled on one road and continued thereon.

That is the very principle involved. God is unable to take us anywhere until we have decided to go in a course of action that we have proven to be his Will, and at any cost.

The text given (Matt.4:5-7) is a very good definition of wavering. Satan was tempting Jesus in that chapter. (From vs.5), "Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,'" he said, throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" "

That is what 'wavering' means. It is tempting the Lord. The thought therein, was that the devil was tempting Jesus to disobey that 'passage of Scripture'. He wanted Jesus to jump down from the temple just to experiment, to see whether God would save Him or not. Satan wanted Jesus to 'try' God and prove whether he was the Son on God; to prove whether God would come between Him if he jumped off that pinnacle. It would have been an experiment with God.

That is one thing we cannot do with God; we cannot experiment with Him. It is surprising how people come to the Lord and want to experiment when they are in trouble. Some people say, "I will go to God with this trouble and put myself in His hands and see if I get a deliverance; I do not think I will, but I will try it for a few days and 'see how it works'. If it works all right, I will keep on; 'if it does not work out right I will 'give the whole thing up.'" "

You 'might as well not undertake it', because Satan will follow you, and jump on you like he did on the seven 'sons of Sceva' (the Jew), (Acts 19:) and leave you naked and wounded spiritually speaking.

Trusting God for anything we desire is like marriage; it is something we cannot experiment with; it is either for better or worse; (but trusting God is better than marriage, because it is always for the better). If we undertake to trust God, we must burn our bridges behind us, and then our victories will come quickly, and we will receive 'answers to prayer'.

Some good verses of the Scriptures on the subject are in (Jeremiah 29:), which tells us how easy it is to make good with God and what the conditions are. (Vs.13) "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

A heart that has a 'wavering faith' has no intention to 'go through with God at any cost'. God has a plan for everything and for the victory over every sin. He has a plan for Christians to live an overcoming life, for peace in your homes. He has a plan to make your wife or husband treat you right, and to love you as they should.

The Pastor said that a correspondent wrote, and, said "Her

husband was so mean and contemptible, and he would not work, so, she wrote to us for prayers in his behalf. "I wish you could have seen the note of praise for the change in that man" (because the wife put him completely in God's hands to have him controlled, and she laid aside herself efforts 'once and for all').

"He began to do better at once, and also started to work" (she said). He had also bought her many things which she never expected to have. He was working every day, and she said, they "are so happy that you would not know he was the same man."

God also has a plan for our health, he has a plan for our financial victory, success in 'church work', and, when you accept God's plan, it means that you expect to go through in faith at any cost. And it will work out wonderfully. It will defeat Satan at once and bring God and all that he has to your side for a quick victory.

The same thought is given (Hebrews 11:6) "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

'Diligence' is just the opposite to wavering. The original meaning of diligence is 'constant and energetic' (as in one's business), but in this particular place it means having a determination to receive your deliverance in God's way at any cost, and never do anything else but go through until we receive the deliverance God has for us. Without that kind of faith, it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God for deliverance, must expect it. His plan is that we must believe that He is just as faithful and loving as He says He is and just as faithful a 'deliverer' as he says he is and, then stand steadfastly (whatever the cost, or whatever the difficulty). And the difficulties will be eliminated when we have a fixed determination to go through with God.

It is our 'condition of heart' that multiplied our difficulties. Our battles come about because of our heart's wavering faith. This can be proven from the Scriptures. 'King Saul' was a man who had salvation because he had surrendered his life to God. The Holy Spirit came upon him, and made him a man of faith, who led God's army to victory. God Himself selected Saul out of all the men in Israel; out of all the chosen ones in Israel. He selected Saul as the best Christian (as we would call him today). When he was anointed by Samuel the Spirit of God came upon him, and he was changed into another man. (But later on in life he fell away from faith on God.)

In the 13th chapter of 1st Samuel, we find that Saul allowed a 'wavering faith' to get into his heart. He was in a very 'trying position'. His home, his family, and his loved ones were at stake; and it was a risk from a human standpoint, but it is a privilege to take a 'risk on God'. [There can be no faith, where there is no risk.] That is what has eliminated faith from the majority of the churches of today. Their creed, or doctrine, does not require anyone to take any risk on God for anything.

The only risk is when they face an illness or death. They do not take a risk on God for their health, nor in financial matters, (or in

anything else). We were all in the same position at one time. There are very few doctrines (of the average church today), which calls for a 'stand of faith' on God's Word for anything.

The most vital principal of real faith is the risk we take, for where there is no risk it is impossible to exercise faith. If I borrowed fifty dollars from you (and you loaned it without security), you would have fifty dollars-worth of faith in me; but if for the risk of losing that fifty dollars, you demanded a wristwatch from me (to keep as security until I paid the money back), you would have no faith in me 'because there was no risk'.

[Where there is no risk there is no faith.]

Faith is multiplied by risk, so the greater the risk you take on God; the greater the possibilities of faith in Him. The greater risk you take (on His Word); the more valuable it is to your spiritual life. (1st Samuel 13:5) "And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and people (as numerous), as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude."

The Philistines had come to do battle against Israel, who had practically no army, for when the people saw the trouble, they fled and hid. There was King Saul with women and children, and with very few weapons of war, to meet this vast host of Philistines. Neither had they any help from God, because they had not offered the sacrifice (required under the old Law), which should have been done before the battle. So, now, they neither had help from God nor man. They were in a quite difficult place.

Many people are in that place today, but Saul put himself in that position; God saw there was a 'wavering faith' in his heart. Saul waited seven days (which was the appointed time set by Samuel to offer the sacrifice), but Samuel did not show up. As soon as the blood would have been offered, and they placed themselves under it, there was not an army in the world that could conquer them. God would have fought for them and made them victorious over any army.

We can imagine that Saul 'paced up and down' (and got a few gray hairs), while waiting those seven days; but, after the seven days, Samuel did not appear. One may wonder sometimes why our prayers are not answered. We have waited so long, suffered so long (in fact, as long as one may feel that they can endure it), and one may say; "If no deliverance comes tomorrow, I will do something"

That decision would just reveal a waver in our heart. It was not anything in Samuel which caused the delay; but it was the wavering in Saul's heart. We may often blame God for being slow, and say "I have prayed and prayed, and have believed the best I could, and I do not get any deliverance."

"I was going through a financial battle in my early Christian life" (the late Pastor said), "and as I met a brother, I explained my position to him, thinking that he could help me." He said, "I was in the same position one time. I trusted the Lord for a deliverance but did not receive any." Well, that was very discouraging to someone

going through the same battle. However, God enabled me to go through with trusting Him, and I proved that He was ever true, (even when everyone else was false).

(In the case of King Saul) he told them to bring to him the peace offering and the burnt offering. He offered the sacrifice, and said, "What else could I do?" "I had to do something." How often we may say that? Well, we must do the right thing, which is to hold absolutely steadfast, whatever comes (and not use our own self effort.)

"And it came to pass that as soon as Saul had made end of an offering (a burnt offering), behold, Samuel came." (1 Sam.13:10).

If he had waited ten minutes longer, he could have won the battle and saved the kingdom. (vs.12) "Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore and offered a burnt offering."

Saul had some good excuses, but they were manufactured by Satan. All the excuses one can offer will not pass for our failures before God, for they are all manufactured by Satan, and bear his trademark.

(Vs.13-14) "And Samuel said to Saul, 'Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now, would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: 'the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart,'" and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.'"...[That was the beginning of Saul's trouble.]

(1st.Samuel 28:5), we were given an account of another battle with the Philistines on Mt. Gilboa. "And, when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled." (The Bible says).

That is always the result of a wavering heart, doubts and fears which disturb our peace, are invariably the result of a 'wavering heart'. The moment we waver (in our faith), that moment Satan can fill us with doubts and fears, but the moment that we burn our bridges behind us, doubts and fear will disappear, and real faith of God takes possession of us. (vs 6) "And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets."

How many Christians have done this very thing, for they will say, 'I tried the Lord, but I did not get my answer, and I had to do something. I tried trusting the Lord, but it did not work out.'

Saul had tried the Lord first; to know about the battle, but God saw that he intended to see a 'spiritualist', if he did not receive an answer quickly. God already knew that Saul would go to the witch of Endor and inquire of her, (for God sees the heart of a person, not their outward appearance). That attitude of the heart shut out God's power. (vs.7) "Then said Saul unto his servants, 'Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her and inquire of her.'" And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a 'familiar spirit' at Endor."

It was that very waver in his heart that caused his suicide, and

his eternal destruction. It is written that King Saul committed suicide and was lost forever; because of not keeping the commandment of the Lord. He chose to turn away from the Truth (after he was once filled with the Holy Spirit), and then he inquired of a woman controlled by the devil. (King Saul's case, surely refutes the false doctrine of Once Saved, Always Saved (as Saul was unwilling to repent of his wavering faith and get back to God right to make a new start).

Because of Saul's wavering faith, it allowed the devil to fill him with fear, and it led to a deliberate and willful sin on Saul's part. (Hebrews 10:26-27), "For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the full knowledge of the Truth, there no longer remains in reserve any other sacrifice for sins. There remains nothing but a certain awful expectation of judgement, and the fury of a fire which before long will devour the enemies of the truth." [Those two things were the cause of Saul's destruction.]

We may sometimes find this waver in our faith. We come to God, confess, and forsake our sins (and that may be in a Church service, .in our home, or elsewhere, which is all right (and scriptural), and we start out to believe God's Word is true: also, to believe that God has fully forgiven our sins and cleansed us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9).

We have started out to prove God, but Satan sees, (and God sees), that we have not burned our bridges behind us; that we have left a plank on it; and that if things do not go our way (just as we think they should), then we will turn back (to self-efforts).

That attitude opens the door for Satan to come in, just as if flood gates were left open and the water rushed in. He begins to suggest in a thousand different ways, that God has paid no attention to us. Satan says, "just stop and consider how you are tempted? God did not forgive your sins. You have made a failure of it, and you know it." (That is what Satan tries to tell us).

If we have not burned our bridges behind us, we say, "I guess that is right. I always thought it was difficult to receive a clean heart. I tried the best that I could." [That plank that you left on the bridge, is the very thing that caused your defeat.]

However, if you have sincerely confessed your sins, you are to forsake them at the cost of your life, and BELIEVE THE WORK IS DONE, and take your stand of faith just as the three Hebrew young men did.

We should be saying, "The God that I asked to pardon and cleanse me, is able to do it, and He will do it; —but if not, —I will not doubt Him." That stand of faith on God, will break the devil's power. Doubts and fears would disappear, and you would find a power which will enable you to seek God with all your heart. And when temptations come, you would realize that a divine power is in you to resist steadfastly, with an unwavering faith unto victory!!

~~~~~

**The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia**