

# *Fellowship with Dad*\*

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Jesus introduced us to God (by whatever other name) with a very intimate word in the Aramaic language which can be accurately translated into English as Dad, Daddy or Papa, but also Mom or Mommy. In other words, compared with human standards, the God Jesus introduced us to is an over-indulgent, Perfect Parent.

# 1

This is a thesis by which anyone can acquire ever-increasing faith – faith that gets seemingly impossible, supernatural results, faith that produces so-called “miracles.”

I have been writing, speaking about, and practicing results-getting faith for many years. Some people receive my writings and report all kinds of positive results including physical healing. Some people have leaped far over my head and landed on their own unique path in a close and personal fellowship with the Source of faith, that is, the Creator of the universe and everything in it. Others find me a bit “off the wall.”

I feel compelled to write this; *driven* might be a better term. It is 3:30 a.m. and I awoke somewhat bemused by a vivid dream: A friend of mine had brought a young man with him to visit me. He had told him that not only could I help him get healed, but that he could even learn how to be a healer under my tutelage. I merely said to the young man (still in the dream) that I wanted him to put aside all his religious and anti-religious thoughts and say something after me.

“Jesus Christ, if you are real I want you to come in and take over my life.”

The young man (he seemed to be in his early twenties), began to twitch, shake his head violently and said he couldn’t do that and disappeared. My friend and I went looking for him and found him wrapped up in a blanket sleeping on the side porch of a large church. A strange dream and I was intrigued by my understanding of the symbolism. I asked Dad about it and felt compelled to write this, “Fellowship with Dad.”

For me the symbolism is easy to understand. I am not normally given to interpret dreams, mine or those of others. But in this case the interpretation is rather simple since I have a deep seated belief system that organized religion, including Christianity, gets in the way of hav-ing a relationship with the one whom Jesus revealed in the original language as our Perfect Parent.

Organized Christianity also gets in the way of having a meaningful relationship with our “elder brother,” the “firstborn,” Jesus Christ. So asking a religious person to put his religious, preconceived notions aside and simply ask Jesus Christ to “come in and take over his life” caused the young man to retreat to his traditional “place of worship.”

One of the major obstacles to having fellowship with Dad, is religion or, perhaps more inclusively, (that is, including me into the thesis) our religious or even anti-religious presuppositions. We’ll examine this premise more closely in the following pages, but first, let’s look at something quite

simple and see if we can stretch our faith toward believing that we too can be what Jesus said we'd be if we believe enough, that is, miracle workers with the individual capability of performing miracles greater even than he could do.

Let's go far beyond even that by looking at being able to do something profoundly simple, but seemingly even more impossible than being mere miracle workers. You have to be able to believe something else Jesus said that to most people sounds preposterous – "nothing is impossible to any individual who believes enough." Can we begin to overcome our unbelief and begin to embrace this simple, but amazing truth?

My eyes were first opened to this profound simplicity in the early 1960s by the scholar, translator and writer, J.B. Phillips, through his translation of the "Student Edition of the New Testament" and his little book first published in 1952, *Your God Is Too Small*. The following is a verbatim excerpt from a chapter in the book called "The Abolition of Death."

Heaven is not, so to speak, the reward for 'being a good boy' (though many people seem to think so), but is the continuation and expansion of a quality of life which begins when a man's central confidence is transferred from himself to God-become-man.

<sup>1</sup> [please see my note about Phillips' reference to "God-become-man" at the end of this excerpt]

It is significant that Jesus Christ on more than one occasion is reported to have spoken of 'eternal life' as being entered into *now*, though plainly to extend without limitation after the present incident that we call life. The man who believes in the authenticity of Jesus' message and puts his confidence in it already possesses the quality of 'eternal life.' Jesus came to bring men not merely 'life,' but life of a deeper and more enduring quality.

If we accept this we shall not be too surprised to find Christ teaching an astonishing thing about physical death; not merely that it is an experience robbed of its terror, but that as an experience *it does not exist at all*.. For some reason or other Christ's words (which Heaven knows are taken literally enough when men are trying to prove a point about pacifism or divorce, for example) are taken with a pinch of salt when He talks about the common experience of death when He says things such as, 'If a man keep my sayings, he shall never see death,' (John 8:51), 'Whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die' (John 11:26). It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the meaning that Christ intended to convey was that death was a completely negligible experience to the man who had already begun to live life of the eternal quality.

'Jesus Christ hath abolished death,' wrote Paul many years ago, but there have been very few since his era that appears to have believed it. The power of the dark old god, rooted no doubt in instinctive fear is hard to shake, and a great many Christian writers, though possessing the brightest hopes of 'Life Hereafter' cannot, it seems, accept the abolition of death. 'The valley of the shadow,' 'Death's gloomy portal,' 'the bitter pains of death,' and a thousand other expressions all bear witness to the fact that a vast number of Christians do not really believe what Christ said. Probably the greatest offender is John Bunyan, writing in his *Pilgrim's Progress* of the icy river through which the pilgrims must pass before they reach the Celestial City. Thousands, possibly millions, must have been influenced in their impressionable years by

reading *Pilgrim's Progress*. Yet the 'icy river' is entirely a product of Bunyan's own fears, and the New Testament will be searched in vain for the slightest endorsement of his idea.

It is high time the 'icy river,' 'the bitter pains' and all the rest of the melancholy images were brought face to face with the fact: 'Jesus Christ has abolished death.' [end of excerpt from, *Your God Is Too Small*]

<sup>1</sup> [This writer's note]: It is basic to Roman Catholic as well as Anglican tradition (the latter being from whence J.B. Phillips hails) that "God became the man" we know as Jesus Christ. Much of Christendom by whatever sect reference embraces this same tradition. Let's look carefully at a favorite scriptural "proof text," used by some of these sects: John 1:1 – 3 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not one thing came into being which has come into being.*" John, the self proclaimed, "beloved by Jesus disciple," wrote his Gospel of John and his Revelation (last book in the Bible) some forty or so years after most of the rest of the New Testament had been written, apparently as a direct corrective to some of the practices of the early church. John is obviously transliterating from the Hebrew of Genesis 1:1 into Greek for a Greek reading audience. The Hebrew word in the entire first chapter of Genesis and the first three verses in chapter 2, translated as "God" in English is "Elohiym." The problem is that Elohiym doesn't translate into either Greek or English. Elohiym is a plural word some scholars insist means the multitude of Spirits that make up the entirety of God. As striking proof of this plurality is Genesis 1:26 "And God said let **US** make man in **OUR** image..." [**EMPHASIS MINE**]

Let's go back to John 1: 1 – 3 What John appears to be doing is trying to make sense out of the fact that the plural Elohiym doesn't translate into the singular Greek word for Deity, *Theos*, to his Greek reading audience. So John puts an additional word in the mix... *Logos*, translated in most English versions as The "Word." Let's also look at the fact that Elohiym doesn't translate into the English "God" either.

Is John saying that this "Word" which created everything by speaking it into existence, "Let there be" (and there was) is the creative Spirit part of Elohiym and that this Word, He, a person, became the man Jesus Christ? John refers to this "Word" as,

*'The true light which; coming into the world enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, yet those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become the sons of God, to those who believe into His name, who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became a man who dwelt among us...'*

What John is clearly saying in the original language is that we become joint heirs with Jesus, our elder brother and example, by receiving the light, the truth, this "Word" the SPIRIT who created the universe and everything in it became a man.

In my mind here is the important distinction between what I am saying and what Christianity at large promotes: The Spirit part of Elohiym who spoke everything into existence became a man – fully a man – who lived fully as a man and was tempted in all ways as we are tempted. The man Jesus did not create the universe. He is our example and as he said, everything he did we will do, in the same way he did it – but he didn't do them, *his Dad in him did* the "works." Christianity in the main postures Jesus as some sort of half man-half God and makes the man an icon of worship; sailing past Jesus' comments that no man is good, only Dad is good.

Let's go beyond Phillips' *Your God is Too Small* to a simple utter-ance in the New Testament book of Hebrews: "Without faith it is im-possible to please (more accurately translated as "access" as opposed to "please") God." This little gem follows on the heels and in context directly relates to: "**By faith** Enoch did not die, but his body was taken up to be with the Lord." (**emphasis added**). In the introduction of Enoch in Genesis, Enoch **continued** his fellowship with God **instead** of dying.

What follows in Hebrews 11:5, 6 and still in context, is the writer's assertion that he who comes to God must believe that God rewards (with more faith) those that diligently seek Him. Jesus made this clear with his statement that God would give an ever increasing amount of His own Holy

Spirit to those that continually and persistent-ly knock on His door and impudently (without awe or respect for His position) demand to receive more. If you want more results-getting faith the formula from the original language is inescapable: An often repeated, continuous knock, knock, knock, and "Dad I want to in-crease my fellowship with YOU. I want to know YOU and sense YOUR continual presence and power in my life" – UNTIL WE BEGIN TO EX-PERIENCE, that is, sense an ever increasing consciousness of the pre-sence and power of God's own Spirit. In case we missed the implication, we do not have to experience physical death and we can avoid it by having the same kind of faith-building fellowship with Dad that Enoch experienced. Others in the Bible also did not experience death, but were "taken up" body and all. One particularly dramatic incident is that of Elijah being taken up and witnessed by Elisha in the early chapters of II Kings

As stated earlier, one of the major obstacles to having fellowship with Dad is religion. One of the major obstacles to a continual in-crease in results-getting faith is religion.

This is a continual theme I use during seminars about how to overcome religious obstacles to obtaining the same "Christ conscious-ness" that Jesus possessed and said we should have and use.

During an evening session in my living room, I had written on a large "flipchart" on an easel the following:

"Jesus Hates"

4 obstacles Jesus said were in the way of obtaining Christ consciousness:

1. The works of the Nicolaitans which Jesus hates (Rev. 2:6).
2. Public prayer (Matt. 6:5, 6).
3. Bible study (John 5:39, 40).
4. Being under church hierarchy (Matt. 23: 8 – 10).

Some of you reading this right now are shocked! How can prayer and Bible study be part of the things that Jesus "hates?" The reason for your shock is that the traditional teaching of the organized church emphasizes these very things. Before you go crazy, please realize that I am using the Bible here as my reference. Think about that for just a moment. The point is that we follow church tradition and have listened to appointed church leaders that perpetuate the very things Jesus said ***not*** to do and that keep us from having a direct, intimate fellowship with Dad.

"Nicolaitans," by the way, makes reference to a group of men in the period following shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus who insisted upon having an approved and learned set of church leaders separated and "over" the common people. Nicolaitans is a contraction of the Greek words "Nico" meaning control or victory over, and "laitans," which is

the word from which we get laity or laymen. John in his Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals that Jesus HATES the practice. Jesus declared that there were to be no human leaders, teachers and spiritual fathers – we are all to minister to one another in equality, as brothers and sisters are equal, with only one Dad (or Mom, if you prefer). What is amazing is that most of modern, organ-ized Christianity openly embraces and even insists upon doing the very thing Jesus says he hates! That is, embraces the practices of the Nico-laitans.

The easel headed by the caption “Jesus hates” was still sitting in my living room when two ladies came to visit me. Upon seeing the easel, one of them exclaimed, “Jesus doesn’t hate, he only loves.” When I showed her the passage and explained what it meant she uttered, “I’ve never seen or heard that before.”

If we ask the obvious question, why have so few seen it or had it explained to them, the answer is simple: Most Christians have been taught by Nicolaitan “shepherds” (the literal meaning of the word “pas-tors”) who have, for what should be obvious reasons, never been taught the literal meaning of the term Nicolaitans themselves.

Understanding this along with Jesus’ remarks, “I am the one true shepherd and all others are usurpers (of both the title and the position) and thieves” and taking Jesus’ words in Matthew 23: 8-10 seriously was the final catalyst for getting me out of the organized church. I have shared it with many pastors who now refuse to allow anyone to call them by that title and have “come out” as well. I can tell many true stories of those who saw the truth and came out, but many more who rationalized staying in organized Christianity. Let me make this quite clear: I am not judging anyone for staying inside the organized church. I’ve been obedient to the call to come out; I am also being obedient to the call to share the message with those that have ears to hear it. It is for each man and woman to decide whether the call is also for him or her.

Finally, it is lonely out here only if I am not in fellowship with Dad.

So, let’s get on with examining ways how to have meaningful, intimate fellowship with our one and only perfect Parent. Let’s just take a few seconds first, however, to see clearly how our traditional religious methods can get in the way.

## 2

Bible study. Here's what Jesus had to say on the topic.

*“You pore over the scriptures because in them you think you find eternal life when all the time they give their testimony about me, but you refuse to come to me so that you can have real LIFE!”*

A man recently came to me rather upset because he interpreted what I had to say as condemnation for his much reading of the Bible. He has told me about his joining a fundamentalist denomination as a teenager some fifty years ago that emphasizes Bible study accompanied by certain commentaries. About twelve years ago he came out of it and typically sees that particular denomination as almost evil because of the bondage he felt that it put him in, particularly with regard to certain specific doctrines. When I first met him he was not at all open to seeing much “good” about his former denomination. When I pointed out some of the truths that were

emphasized by that organ-ization he was quite reluctant to admit that perhaps there were some positive things that could be said about it.

He was concerned that I was going overboard by including Bible reading in the list of things "Jesus hates." We finally got past his angst and are okay with one another again as friends. I have pointed out in the past that much of what I emphasize in my writings that Jesus said I do for shock value. Where have I found all the many quotes of Jesus' words? In the Bible.

When I first invited Jesus Christ to take over my life I was introduced to a church that used the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. One of the things that was emphasized in their literature was the doctrinal statement that "The Bible is the only Word of God and must be read daily and continually for proper growth as a believer in Jesus Christ." This was followed by an italicized quote:

*"Ye search the scriptures."* (John 5:39)

Here they were, quoting, as a command by Jesus, to do the very thing he was saying not to do because it leads *away* from him rather than *to* him. It was many years later while I was in the middle of writing a syllabus for a seminar that I discovered the truth of this in a rather penetrating way. The theme of the seminar and the title of the syllabus were "Counseling in the Power of the Holy Spirit." I was looking through several translations of the Bible vainly to find a proof text for a point I had just made. I did a seemingly rather silly thing. I had read recently about a man that was on death row in prison was on his knees in his cell with his Bible in front of him crying out to God to show him a truth from the Bible. He opened the Bible with his eyes closed and put his finger on a page and when he opened his eyes these words jumped off the page: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." etc. and from this found Jesus Christ, so the story went.

Well if this could work for a convicted murderer why wouldn't it work for me? I closed my eyes and opened one of the many Bibles I had been looking through for well over an hour which happened to be the "Student Edition of the New Testament" translated by the above referenced J.B. Phillips. Sure enough, these words jumped off the page. "You pore over the Scriptures for in them you think you find eternal life, but you refuse to come to me so that you can have that LIFE."

Here I had been writing a syllabus about counseling in the power of God's own Spirit and had gotten hung up in poring over the scriptures for a verse to prove that what I was saying was Biblical! The seminar for which I was preparing was for a group of evangelical pastors who would collectively, I expected, be quite critical about any-thing not directly connected to some passage in the Bible. I stood up and began walking around the room in which all this was occurring and basically said out loud, "Jesus, how could I be so stupid? I come to you now." I spent the most wonderful time with the



“Author and Finisher of our faith” (a Biblical term, as is, “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever,” get it?) for the next hour or so and he gently gave me the answer I had been looking for.

The Bible is a powerful source of spiritual truth, but unless and until it brings us to Jesus Christ for his answers for today’s situations we can easily get bogged down in studying the “Good Book” about things that were going on two thousand years and longer ago that may have little or no relevance for our lives today. It is easily proved by the Bible that Jesus Christ is the “Word of God,” and the “two edged sword,” referred to in the fifth chapter of Hebrews, and not the Bible. Some Christians take the words in the third and fourth chapters of the same book, “Today, if you will hear My voice, and stop rebelling” means to stop sitting in some pew and listening to a preacher engage in “expository” preaching from the Bible. Read the following with your heart:

*“Therefore, Holy Spirit says, ‘Today if you will hear My voice and not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’”*

This phrase “Today, if you will hear **My** voice” is repeated three times in two chapters.

Hear this one, “For we become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end, ‘Today if you will hear **His** voice...’ ”

Bible study isn’t wrong, but if it doesn’t lead us directly to the Source it is deadly and deadening.

I have an extremely close relationship with two of my three sons because they show up or call me frequently. If either one didn’t show up or call because he was too busy reading one of my books (not a likely event, but “if”) it wouldn’t make for very good fellowship. Now let’s move on to what does engender good fellowship between us – a call, “Hey dad, what the hell did you mean on page 73 (of a book I recently wrote) when you said” (such and such) and it got us into a dialogue. An excellent use of reading the Bible for me is saying “Hey Dad is this useful for me today?” And listening carefully for His answer and not reading some dumb commentary as to what a particular pass-age supposedly means.

Let’s move on to ways that might be beneficial for showing up at Dad’s house.

### 3

Dad, what will make the best sense for readers as to how to approach this entire subject, especially that will help each individual see that you are welcoming them home to You?

“Tell them your story in a way that doesn’t make them want to copy your relationship with Me. Tell them that I say I love them every bit as much as I love you. If I can love someone like you, a man who has made more mistakes in managing his life than most people, it will be good for them to see that my love is not based on behavior. Having fellowship with me is simply engaging Me in a conversation. Encourage them that it will be one way at first. Let them know that even though I know and see everything they do, say and think, that it is a good idea to just start pouring it out to Me. Tell them that this is for their benefit. I don’t need it, but I do enjoy it and I do want to be involved and I will give direction to anyone that wants it, but they have to break through the limitations of their own minds.

“Speaking about behavior, the way I can help them change self-destructive actions is when they come to me in the middle of doing them. The first step to relating with me is in the middle of doing things that aren’t working for them, that make them feel guilty. I am not their conscience, but putting their conscience to a productive use is to let it drive them home to Me. Just because their conscience is beating them up, I won’t. Tell them I welcome them home anytime they want to show up. Urge them to see that coming to Me is just that simple. Tell them your story because your story will make sense to others like you who have a tendency to make easy things difficult and simple things complicated, but remind them that it works for you and will work for others of the same ilk.”

After that bombshell from Dad, I had to ask if I should write anything further on this piece. I read it over and over and finally put it away for

several weeks. I just now asked and got the "go ahead." I had originally been stung by Dad's words that I "make easy things difficult and simple things complicated." But wait a minute! He acknowledged that my emotional and thought processes work for me and others like me. So, if you have a tendency to complicate the sim-ple too, perhaps this is meant for you.

I asked, "What is 'my story?' " I immediately understood that I was to write a simplified version of the story Jesus told about the "Prodigal son," and share how I've been led by SPIRIT to apply it to my own life.

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You remember the story. After asking for and receiving his inheritance from his dad and blowing it on parties, booze and women of ill repute, a young man found himself tending to a hog pen and in exchange for his labors he was allowed to eat pig food. It finally dawned on him that he could do much better as a slave back home. He decided to go back to his father's farm and beg his dad to let him eat the leftovers from the slaves' kitchen and enter service as a slave himself.

He no sooner made the decision to go home, than his Dad ran toward him to meet him on the way. The "old man" was ecstatic. The young man was virtually in rags, he had sold the family signet ring and his shoes. If you have ever been in the vicinity of a pig farm, you can imagine how badly the kid smelled! Before he could get his plan of entering slavery out of his mouth, his dad hugged him, and ordered new clothes and shoes be put upon him, he restored him fully into the family with his inheritance intact and a new ring placed on his finger.

Then the "old man" ordered a huge banquet and party replete with a band and dancing girls. Never once in Jesus' narrative is there any hint that our Dad required anything of his youngest son. He was simply glad he was back and fully restored into the family.

As you recall, all this commotion over the return of his younger brother ticked off the older son. "Why on earth have you thrown a party for him? He took your money and spent it on wild parties and whores. I stayed here and worked hard and you never once threw me a party."

The "old man" told the older brother that he could have a party any time he wanted it, but urged him to join him in celebrating the return of his young son, "who was dead, but has now returned to life" is how he put it. But, as we remember, the older brother stubbornly refused and missed out on the party.

How do I apply this story to my own life? Very simply, I was shown that anytime I am not consciously in the presence of Dad, I am eating pig food and tending the hogs. All I have to do is recognize how ridiculous it is not to be with Dad and come home. Anytime I catch myself being preoccupied or worried about anything, whether business or pleasure (or "ministry"), I just call out to Dad and say, there I go again eating pig food

and in the middle of it all I'm back with Dad, fully restored by just "showing up."

It works for me, and I don't worry about what all my older brothers grumble about. I'm having a ball and they could have their own any time they want. It's the best party around. That's my story and it works for me. But there's more...

## **4**

An integral part of my story has to do with what I feel chosen to share. First, however, let me share how I came to feel I have been "chosen."

I came across a passage that quoted Jesus as saying, "many are called, but few are chosen."

So I asked, "What is the difference? How can I be one of the chosen few? The answer was profoundly simple:

"I call everyone, but whosoever will may come to me, but the title "chosen" is reserved for the few that want to be among the 'chosen.'"

"Wait a minute, I asked, "You mean I can be chosen just because I tell you I want to be?"

"Exactly," I heard so very clearly. In other words I'm given to tell everyone right here and now, YOU TOO CAN BE CHOSEN – simply tell Dad that is what you want.

I have clarity that I am supposed to close this chapter with the following article I recently wrote:

### ***Going Out On a Limb***

Faith is a gift from God, right? Therefore discussing how to go about getting more faith is just plain silly, right? Perhaps not. Some people get quite disturbed with what could be described as my formulaic approach to getting or increasing one's faith. But hold on, it's not my formula.

According to Jesus, all you have to do to get an increase of faith, *the kind of faith* and "God consciousness," which he used to do all kinds of things, including raising someone from the dead, getting rid of a spirit that was causing epileptic-like seizures in a small boy, walking on water, giving sight to somebody that didn't have eyesight, hearing to the deaf, turning water into wine and healing diverse diseases, is to beat on the door of the Source, by whatever other name.

He provided two rather interesting metaphors to describe this Source in his instructions, one was that of a close Friend, the other was that of a unique (one and only), extremely indulgent, perfect Parent and if we keep on beating on the door, while demanding impudently and persistently, just as a small child who says, I want, I want, I want, I want, and the Source will give you this same “consciousness” and “faith” if you keep coming to the Source UNTIL you know you have it.

Some people prefer to call this Source “the Universe” which is a bit impersonal for my taste, others prefer “God,” but in the original language Jesus used a word that is very intimate and the typical austere, “Father,” in English just doesn’t convey what Jesus was clearly saying in Aramaic, that is, the Source is our perfect Daddy/Mommy and we can go to this perfect Parent anytime and get the kind of faith that comes only from the Source.

In essence the way you get more faith is to use what little faith you already have. Do you have enough faith to go out on a limb and start knocking, seeking and impudently and persistently demanding to get what he has already promised UNTIL you know you have it? Some try to argue that this is presumption. Okay, fine, but it is the presumption that Jesus said to use to get more faith from Dad. I am not called to argue about anything; I’d rather spend my time in fellowship with Dad and doing what I’m called to do – that is, share how I daily increase my faith by continually going out on a limb and demanding more... and it does work for me.

Let’s look at a wonderfully exciting passage in the Bible and see just how far this kind of faith can take us.

*“By faith Enoch was translated so that he did not experience death; and he was taken by God and nobody could find his body because he was translated because he was well pleasing to God.”*

Let’s not stop there, but keep reading what comes next in the very same passage:

*“But without faith it is impossible to please God.”*

This very same passage continues and demonstrates **HOW** to acquire this faith that will please God and fits in exactly with what Jesus said:

*“For he who comes to God must believe that He will reward those who persistently come to Him.”*

Do I want the kind of faith that not only produces God pleasing, God conscious-ness *faith*, according to these passages in the Bible? All I have to do is go out on a limb and approach the Source, persistently, diligently and impudently UNTIL I have it.

Thank You, Daddy!

Now then, are you convinced enough, or do you want more? Does your religious training tell you that the foregoing may not be true? Here is the way to find out – a perfect solution. Jesus promised that the SPIRIT will lead you into all truth. Let’s look at one more passage, written by Jesus’ half brother, James:

*“Consider it all joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let that endurance have its perfect result, that you be complete, lacking in nothing!”*

Go out on a limb and test the little bit of faith you already have – and here’s HOW, continuing in the very same passage:

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, go to God who gives to all liberally and who will not make you feel small and it will be given to you.”*

But we must see something here and this very same passage continues... apply it!

*But let him ask in faith, not allowing doubt to cause you to waver, for he who allows doubt to keep him from persistently coming to God is like the surf of the sea being tossed about by the wind...”*

Let’s pause for just a moment and understand what is being said here. Doubt is not the problem. In the original language it is quite clear that Jesus’ half brother is saying *allowing* doubt to cause you to waver from approaching God is the problem. Keep going out on a limb and don’t take no for an answer. Is this true? Don’t take my word for it, Jesus said SPIRIT will lead you into all truth... now let’s take to heart what Jesus’ half brother is saying – same passage continuing from the same place:

*“For somebody that wavers cannot expect to receive anything from the Lord, for he is unstable in all his ways...”*

My summation is keep going out on a limb. When the enemy comes in roaring like a lion and feeding you with his fiery darts of doubt, refuse to let such thoughts keep you from approaching the Source.

I want, I want, I want, I want, I want, I want – ah, THANK YOU!

# 5

Back in chapter 1 I introduced the fact that Enoch transcended physical death. How did he accomplish this amazing feat? Hebrews 11: 5, 6 in the original language clearly states he did it **by faith**. And by employing this kind of faith Enoch stayed in fellowship with Dad **instead** of dying.

Then, in typical fashion I got off the subject to talk about obstacles to acquiring this kind of faith, traditional religious practices that seem “good,” but actually take us in the wrong direction. So, back to my story, and don’t forget Spirit reminded me to say that it is not necessary for anyone to replicate my exact experience, but those who have ears to hear will see that anyone can acquire this kind of faith.

Let’s stop right here. I know that some of you reading this are being attacked right now with the thought that you don’t have this kind of faith. I am here to assure you that you do, but you must exercise it so that it will grow. It is just that simple and I’ve just been directed to write that.

*“For he who comes to God must believe that He will reward those who persistently come to Him” (Hebrews 11:6).*

This is the mustard-seed faith Jesus was talking about, a seed that will sprout into a mustard plant, a plant that is impervious to any attack including from insects that chew up just about any other plant except for bamboo. It has nothing to do with the smallness of the seed. Size is an unfortunate, mistranslated insertion that doesn’t exist in the original language. It is the nature of the seed and into what it transcends that Jesus was talking about.

I’m supposed to share my experience just so that you will see that a guy who has mismanaged his life in many areas can enter into the destiny Jesus said is prepared for those who believe. I woke up one morning feeling slightly depressed from a ridiculous nightmare. I was wrestling with trying to change my attitude. A question formed in my mind. “What do I really want?”

I had recently been looking at and writing about Enoch, and in that instant of asking the question, *what do I really want?* I realized that I didn’t have the assurance of being in fellowship with Dad the transcending way Enoch had fellowship with Dad.

"Wait a minute," I exclaimed aloud. There it was; I know that when I focus on the promise of Jesus that if I bang on the door to Dad's place and keep on banging and demanding to get His promises, and refuse to quit – He always comes through – sometimes it takes awhile to breakthrough and to get it into my thick head.

Plain and simple, what I want is to have the same fellowship with Dad that Enoch enjoyed and all I have to do is believe that he will reward me with it if I persistently come to Him. Dad assures me that no matter what any of us have done, no matter how we've screwed up our lives (using me as a template for the ultimate "chief of sinners" screw up here), the faith and fellowship of Enoch is available.

Faith for me is to believe in my Dad's love for me ENOUGH to trust Him that He will keep His promise. If I wake up tomorrow with doubt, it will just be a signal to cry out to Dad, "I want to sense YOUR presence and power and to know that I am in fellowship with You."

That's the Enoch style of fellowship that produces transcending from where we are now into our full potential, It is wonderful, it is eternal life NOW.



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