

FAITH AND FINAL EVENTS

Many of us are unprepared for the trials of the last days because we have not cultivated the habit of trusting God in difficult circumstances. We are assured by the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy that faith will be absolutely necessary in the last days.

*The season of distress and anguish before us **will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,--a faith that will not faint, though severely tried.** The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. {4SP 438,439}*

***Those who exercise but little faith now**, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of Satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it **a habit to trust in God**. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement. **We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving his promises** {4SP 439}*

***Faith is trusting God**,--believing that he loves us, and knows best what is for our good. Thus instead of our own way, it leads us to choose his way. {RH, December 24, 1908 par. 3}*

*In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see **every earthly support cut off**. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. {DA 121,122}*

*...and we can never perfect a round, full Christian experience **until every earthly support is removed**, and the soul centers its entire affections about God. Letter 6, 1894,*

*If every earthly support is going to be cut off and removed, could it be possible that our heavenly Father wants us to **RELY MORE HEAVILY UPON EARTHLY SUPPORT** ? Many seem to believe this and demonstrate it by the choices they are making. Take note of one aspect of the 3rd angel's message.*

*Now, it has been Satan's determined purpose to eclipse the view of Jesus, **and lead man to look to man, and trust to man, and be educated to expect help from man**. For years **the church** has been looking to man and expecting much from man, but not looking to Jesus, in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. **Therefore** God gave to His servants a testimony that presented the truth as it is in Jesus, which is **the third angel's message** in clear, distinct lines.--Letter 57, 1895.*

*It seems clear that the Lord desires us to be **educated** to trust in and to look to Jesus. The 3rd angel's message educates an individual to **TRUST IN GOD**. True education in a college or university should do the same thing. In these last days, can we really afford to spend years getting an education that does not strengthen our trust in God or Jesus Christ ?*

There is no social, political or educational advantage that will be sufficient to provide for our temporal needs as the crisis in our world intensifies. Actually, Satan plans to use our basic needs against us. Sister White was permitted to hear him speak about this...

I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of earth. Human laws shall be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. ***For fear of wanting food and clothing***, they will join with the world in transgressing God's law; and the earth will be wholly under my dominion." {RH, April 17, 1900 par. 4}

Out heavenly FATHER has more than one way to supply our needs if we demonstrate our trust in Him by doing as He commands.

Christ has promised to provide for us ***if we will only put our trust in Him.***-Ms. 16, 1886.

If we plan according to our own ideas, the Lord will leave us to our own mistakes. But when, after following His directions, we are brought into strait places, He will deliver us. We are not to give up in discouragement, but ***in every emergency*** we are to seek help from Him who has infinite resources at His command. Often we shall be surrounded with trying circumstances, and then, in the fullest confidence, ***we must depend upon God. He will keep every soul that is brought into perplexity through trying to keep the way of the Lord.*** {DA 369.1}

Our heavenly Father ***has a thousand ways*** to provide for us ***of which we know nothing.*** Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet. {SpTB19 4.3}

If the Lord Jesus could by increasing the supply of food meet the necessities of five thousand hungry men, besides women and children, on that occasion, ***He will at the present time*** impart knowledge to His people in different places, whereby in various ways they will be provided with food. ***His hand of benevolence is not stayed.***--Letter 9, 1902.

Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us ***that we know nothing about.*** But ***we are not excused from effort.*** While we may trust his constant care, we must not conclude that we may be slack in that which our hands find to do. We are to be "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." "If any provide not for his own, and ***specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.***" {ST, January 7, 1886 par. 9}

God commands that all whom He has not especially called to labor in word and doctrine ***should labor with their hands*** the thing that is good ***and supply their own necessities and have wherewith to bestow upon others.*** And I saw that it was the will of God that they should eat wholesome food to strengthen the system or the temple of God. But in the time of trouble none will labor with their hands. Their sufferings will be mental, and God will provide food for them.--Ms 2, 1858.

Oh God ! Please strengthen our trust in you with an abundant display of your love and power in our daily lives. Forgive us for trusting in man and trusting in ourselves. Help us to learn quickly what we must learn in the fastest and easiest way possible. In Jesus' name. Amen

FAITH IS TRUSTING GOD

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and ***put your trust in the LORD***. Psalms 4:5

The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, ***in whom I will trust***; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower. Psalms 18:2

The LORD [is] my strength and my shield; ***my heart trusted in him, and I am helped***: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. Psalms 28:7

Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but ***he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass*** him about. Psalms 32:10

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and ***none of them that trust in him*** shall be desolate. Psalms 34:22

Commit thy way unto the LORD; ***trust also in him***; and he shall bring [it] to pass. Psalms 37:5

But the salvation of the righteous [is] of the LORD: [he is] their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, ***because they trust in him***. Psalms 37:39,40

Trust in him at all times; [ye] people, pour out your heart before him: God [is] a refuge for us. Psalms 62:8

I will say of the LORD, [He is] my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and ***under his wings shalt thou trust***: his truth [shall be thy] shield and buckler. Psalms 91:2,4

[It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. Psalms 118:8

They that trust in the LORD [shall be] as mount Zion, [which] cannot be removed, [but] abideth for ever. Psalms 125:1

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5,6

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. Proverbs 28:26

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but ***whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe***. Proverbs 29:25

Every word of God is pure: ***he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him***. Proverbs 30:5

Thou wilt keep [him] in ***perfect peace***, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: ***because he trusteth in thee***. Isaiah 26:3

Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength: Isaiah 26:4