

Objective: to enable every believer to see the ‘bigger picture’ of their lives and believe in the current manifestation of power—restarting the the faith-miracle-producing lifestyle.

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NLBC a.m.

From Faith to Faith in the Last Days

Rom. 1:16, 17 NKJV; 2 Cor. 3:18; Ps. 9:7-9
Ps. 94:15

Introduction

In these days, we are we so challenged to ‘rediscover’ the power of our faith—the faith that came to us when we believed the ‘gospel’—the good news. Faith is one of those ‘always on,’ truths, that is to be released in the ‘current moment’ of challenge and opportunity.

Illustration: Doctors have a machine that shows your hearts activity on a screen called a ‘heart monitor.’

Mankind has needed this remedy since the Garden of Eden spiritually. God’s ‘electric shock therapy,’ are His judgments poured out in the earth. He does this to revive His dying patients (the believers) and to resurrect the dead (those who have not received Christ as their Saviour are the ‘living dead.) His judgments have this dual affect—awakening His Church to Him and His mission and purpose, and calling out to those,

who are 'dead in trespasses and sins' (Eph. 2:1), to rise and put saving faith in Christ's work on the Cross.



His 'patients' (His Church) have drifted into spiritually unhealthy lifestyles and now the 'disease of lukewarmness and carnality,' threaten their life and mission on earth. They are spiritually dying, while living. The unbelievers, those who have never confessed their sin and need for the Saviour (the Great Physician), are in the "grave of their sins." He calls them by name, "Come forth!" just as He did with Lazarus. Eph. 2:1.

The tell-tale signs of the disease of drift (Heb. 2:1-4) are many, but one of the most notable ones, is the lack of miracles, as God's people, have become accustomed, to living, depending on themselves and embracing, unwittingly, the 'gods of this world.'

Understanding the Times

In general terms, redemptive history can be defined in the simplest sense, as 'cycles of mercy and judgment.' Many Christians often, may not have a clear view of judgment and immediately their minds might turn in the wrong direction, as they try to comprehend God as a judge, using their own experience of human judges. They see God as loving and not 'judgmental,' as they say. However, God's love demands that He judge and His judging comes out of His loving.

God is love. John 3:16. God so loved the world, that He judged it and then put the surgery on His Son. If anyone and everyone would allow His painless surgery (salvation) because they suffer, from the disease of sin, they would have everlasting life.

"O yes, Pastor, but now that He did that with Jesus, He no longer judges, He just loves. So we wipe out the Bible and go with our feelings and notions of Who God is.... No! We cannot. We must take our view of God from the whole book—The Bible, not make up our view from earthly perspective or experience.

God is Love. – 1 John 4:8, 16

God is Judge. – Ps. 50:6; Ps. 82:8; Acts 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 12:23; Ps. 96:10, 13.

He never stops being other...He cannot change Himself. He does not change. Love and judgment as far as God is

concerned are not contradictory or contradictions. Men's judgment is often wrongly motivated and poorly exercised. God is perfect judgment and His judging comes out of His loving.

Because He loves, He judges...otherwise He would be inconsistent with Himself. He cannot ignore His heart and His response, to what is opposite to Himself...evil. In responding to evil, He judges...lovingly, that those who walk in evil, might turn from it, to Him and everlasting life!

Where are we?

In the unfolding of redemptive history, where are we in the 'cycle of mercy and judgment?'

****Underlying Principle:** God is a Responder and a Master Teacher.

Job, in his distress, asks a very valuable question, “

Job 24:1

"Why does the Almighty not set times for judgment? Why must those who know him look in vain for such days?"

Actually, God does have 'set times,' for judgment, and mercy...set times, or seasons in which judgment or Divine Response and Divine Decision forward God's purposes in the earth. He also, has set times for mercy as His response and His Divine Decision to take forward His purposes in the earth. This started in the Garden.

Ps 105:7 says, "He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. 1 Chron. 16:12, 14

Ex. 6:6 – redeemed with mighty acts of judgment; Ex. 12:12;
Num. 33:4

Deut. 1:17 – Judgment belongs to God and is based on unchanging character and values of God Himself.

Ps 94:10-15 says, “Does he who **disciplines nations** not punish? Does he who teaches man lack knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile. Blessed is the **man you discipline**, O Lord, the man you teach from your law; you grant him relief from days of trouble, till a pit is dug for the wicked. For the Lord will not reject his people; **he will never forsake his inheritance. Judgment will again be founded on righteousness**, and all the upright in heart will follow it.”

Heb. 4:16 – finding mercy in the time of need.

1 Kings 8:28-53 –the mercy of God based on humility and repentance after having endured the loving chastisement of God’s judgments

The Cycle of Mercy and Judgment: God’s purposes with mankind, flow out of a continual cycle of mercy and judgment, borne of His great love for man.

When man sinned, God had already pronounced the judgment that would come upon him. Gen. 2:17. When he sinned, God granted him, mercy...a space to repent, (called a ‘lifespan’), that he didn’t deserve (in another word, “grace).” All of this came out of God’s loving. God’s judgment is an expression of His love.

If He did not judge sin and thus render man an opportunity to return to Him, man would have lived his entire life never reconsidering his life. God did not want to be separated from those He loves. Man discovers that separation from God is Hell...Hell in this life and the life to come. Thus, God judged again...this time, His only Son, when He placed judgment upon His only Son, having placed all sin upon Him. He did this out of love, John 3:16 tells us.

The wages of sin, on either side of the Cross, is still death or separation from God. Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:2; Ps. 66:18-20.

Thus, judgment comes from loving. Parents who don't label sin, as sin, in their children's behaviour are saying to them, sin doesn't matter. Sin separates and kills. When the judgment is exercised through discipline, the parent is lovingly calling their son/daughter back to the right ways of God—imitating the Heavenly Father.

Human judgment is often wrongly motivated and unwisely exercised. So, we must understand the concept of judgment. God is The Judge. Men exercise judgment. The Bible tells us, "Judge not that you be not judged." Mt. 7:1 KJV. ...But then it tells us to judge righteous judgment. John 7:24.

The Basics of Faith – From 'Faith to Faith'

- God made His people to have a relationship with Him

- That God-Man relationship was ‘connected’ by the means of a capacity, that God had given man—the ability to believe or use what He had been given—his faith.
- This capacity is a ‘gift of God.’ Rom. 12:3 KJV.
- Everything there is about God, that the believer desires, is accessed by the use of that person’s faith. Mt. 9:29
- Faith, is an operation of the Spirit, as its spiritual activation is by ‘hearing the Spirit’s voice.’ This is why worship, meditation, listening/hearing and speaking in tongues are so vital. Gal. 5:22 KJV tells us the **faith** is a ‘fruit or a work or a production, **of the Spirit.**’ Rom. 10:17 tells us that faith **comes** by hearing...the voice of God, the Holy Spirit.

From Faith to Faith Corresponds to: From Glory to Glory

- We came into Christ, on the basis of faith—**saving faith**. Rom. 13:11 says, “And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”

This ‘saving faith,’ is our **foundation of believing**, as it established our lifelong *ability and capacity* for believing and receiving all that God is and has promised us.

- We **continue in faith** as we meet every challenge of living on this planet—whether it is physical, financial, relational, business or circumstantial. Our faith-life is a progressive ‘faith-life,’ growing and increasing as we walk on with Jesus. Philippians 1:25 says, “Convinced of this, I

know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you **for your progress and joy in the faith...**"

Col. 1:23 says, "if **you continue in your faith**, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel."

1 Tim. 2:15 says, "if they **continue in faith**, love and holiness with propriety."

Each faith step enables us to move to the **next level** and take on what seems to be greater challenges

John 2:11 says, "This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. **He thus revealed his glory**, and his disciples put their faith in Him." When the servants acted in **faith**, they released the **miracle** that released the **glory!**

Thus, to go, from faith to faith, is to go, from glory to glory, as miracles occur at that point, to the praise of the great Miracle Worker! As a result of 'seeing His glory,' many put their faith in Him. Harvest follows glory—Acts 2:1-5; 17-21, 41.

Stages – Num. 33:1,2 NIV says, "Here are the **stages** in the journey of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt by divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. At the Lord's command Moses recorded the **stages** in their journey. This is **their journey by stages....**"

- Israel's journey was in stages or segments of time and travel. It was a microcosm or small picture of their earthly journey unfolding according to God's purposes. This earthly journey is illustrated in Ps. 78, Ps. 105, Ps. 106. God blessed, Israel rejoiced, Israel wandered away, God judged Israel and the earth, Israel came back in mercy and God blessed them. Again, and again, this cycle of mercy (blessing favour and grace) and then judgment, was repeated.

God judged or sent His judgments, into the earth, to turn the nations to Him and to turn His nation back to Him.

- Solomon's Temple – the ascending stages of the Temple – Ez. 41:7 says, "The structure surrounding the temple was built in ascending stages, so that the rooms widened as one went upward. A stairway went up from the lowest floor to the top floor through the middle floor."

The portion of the temple that was on the outside was built in *ascending stages upward*.

- The River of Heaven that flowed into the temple in Ez. 47 came in stages as it progressed. It was illustrating the journey 'from glory to glory.'— from one level, to a deeper level.

Our refuge in the time/season of judgments poured out in the earth – Ps. 48:8-49:20. God sustained Israel in Egypt while the

plagues were being poured out in the earth. He will do the same in the 'last days' as His judgments are poured out in the earth.

God is speaking in this 'season' or 'stage' of our journey. He is calling us back to vibrant and powerful faith in Him, so much that we see ourselves going from faith **to** faith and subsequently from glory **to** glory! Signs and wonders, an exercise of faith, release glory...the visible manifestation of God's love and power releases an invisible and supernatural dimension called 'glory' that calls all mankind to Him, whether saved or yet to be saved!

Let us go back and recover what is lost through this 'shock therapy' and release our faith and thus release the glory that consumes us and testifies to this world.

Application

God is always taking us to the Next Level...of faith expression and faith manifestation...take your steps today...heal everyone in your household and receive healing yourself.

Be who you are: A man/woman/child of faith – Gal.3:29; Rom. 4:16, 17. **Returning To your Heritage! (illustr. Merilee)**

- Heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, cleanse the lepers – Matt. 10, 7,8 Start today in your home.
- Forget Yesterday – Philippians 3:13
- Start today and do what needs to be done! Attack with authority, power, your faith, the Word and your

commanding words, conditions to change in Jesus Name!
Return to your heritage and begin to move from 'faith to faith' and 'glory to glory.'

- If no one in your home—speak on the phone and command someone else's body to be healed! Don't beg, plead, or ask the Father, when He told **you** to do it, **you do it like He did it!** You **command it now** in Jesus' Name!

Songs: (These can be found on the Internet for singing along)

Here I am waiting

The Potters Hand

Thrive

Family Project: This week practice the miraculous by 'doing the works of Jesus' as often as you see the need in your home and with all that you know. Get the children to lay hands on and command...speak your powerful words to any condition that arises or has arise or has been of longstanding. Get your family health and finance back to the 'blessing/prosperous' state that is your inheritance!