



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

These are critical days for America, and, by chain reaction for the rest of the world! As never before, those of us who name the Name of Christ need to view the present economic, political and missionary challenges from a heavenly perspective.

For, God *hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus* EPHESIANS 1:5,6.

From a human perspective, when we hear of world-wide financial crises and listen to the promises of politicians with the black backdrop of national and international moral abandonment, we could easily become depressed. However, nothing is out of control because Satan is under the feet of our risen Lord Jesus Christ and we are in Him! (COLOSSIANS 3:3). Therefore as believers, we triumph in the “Finished Work” of Christ!

Accordingly, let us view the circumstances of our day from a heavenly perspective because we are already ascended in Christ Jesus. Ours is not a faith system that simply applauds Bible truth but a living faith that appropriates the victory of the indwelling Christ. Therefore, in every circumstance of life, let us readily leap the chasm from what the Lord Jesus described as “*Little faith*” to that which He described as “*Great faith*.”

Little Faith

- * **Physical Need:** In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus addressed the foreboding fears of people who were anxious about their supply of food, drink and clothing by reminding them how His Father faithfully fed the birds and arrayed the beautiful lilies. He then pin-pointed the cause of their anxiety: “*O ye of little faith*” MATTHEW 6:30.
- * **Emotional Need:** It was to His disciples, who were pulverized with fear in the face of a life threatening storm as Jesus slept in the boat, that He said: “*O ye of little faith*” MATTHEW 8:26.
- * **Spiritual Need:** It was to Peter, who had responded to the command of the Lord Jesus to walk on the sea, and had obediently stepped out of the boat, that Jesus said: “*O thou of little faith*” MATTHEW 14:31. Peter’s problem was that he had turned his eyes away from the Lord Jesus and looked at the threatening waves with the result that he nearly drowned. Similarly in our lives, obedience without consistent dependence on the Lord Jesus will lead to dismay and defeat.
- * **Doctrinal Need:** The Lord Jesus described the corrupt doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees as “leaven.” The mention of leaven immediately reminded the disciples of the bread that they had forgotten. To which concern Jesus said:

“*O ye of little faith*” MATTHEW 16:8. He then reminded the disciples how He had already miraculously fed five thousand people, and, on another occasion four thousand people with baskets full to spare! However, the Lord Jesus was more deeply concerned to teach the subtle corruption of the permeating and deadening influence of false doctrine. How fitting this warning is for today!

As diagnosed by the Lord Jesus when He said to others, “*O ye of little faith*”—if our priorities in life are food, drink and clothing: If our security in life is in the status quo to which we have become comfortable: If our well intended initial act of obedience no longer looks in total dependence on the Lord Jesus: If, when facing new tests of faith, we fail to gratefully remember His past faithfulness; then our doctrinal correctness and biblical knowledge will be mere biblical objectivism that lacks a dynamic faith in our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes! We can face each test of faith in one of two ways: Either we can meet it in the insufficiency of the self life—self effort, self pity or self centeredness—or, we can meet it in the sufficiency and enabling of the indwelling Christ! When we acknowledge the Lordship of Christ in our lives, whatever circumstance we may face, He is totally adequate!

As Lord of our life, the Lord Jesus Christ is adequate for whatever circumstance we may face. The difference of our attitude will be either that of “*Little faith*” or that of “*Great faith*.”

Great Faith

Astonishing as it must have been to the hearers, the Lord Jesus reserved His commendation of “*Great faith*” to two Gentiles! The one was a Centurion in the Roman Guard; the other was a Syrophenician mother. As we shall see, although they were separated greatly in social and occupational spheres of life, they had one thing in common—**humility**. It has been said that pride renders faith impossible.

The Centurion: “I am a man of authority,” he said, “and have men under me.” Woe betide the person who seeks to exercise authority over another but does not himself submit to the authority that God has placed over him! The Centurion was over one hundred Roman soldiers but under the authority of Rome. However, this military officer requested Jesus to heal his dying servant. In so doing he recognized the Lord Jesus was Himself under the Higher Authority of His Father in Heaven. Accordingly he said: “*I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof . . . but say the word and my servant*

shall be healed.” To which Jesus replied: “I have not found so *great faith*, no, not in Israel” LUKE 7:6,9. The Centurion’s humble attitude of unworthiness, linked to his confidence in the words of Jesus, resulted in his servant being healed.

The Syrophenician Mother: In Matthew 15:21 we read how, for the first time, Jesus left the land of Israel and departed into the land of Tyre and Sidon. It was there that this Gentile woman addressed Jesus as “*Son of David*,” and besought help for her daughter who was “*grievously vexed of the devil*.” Under that title Jesus did not accede to her request. But when she worshipped Him and addressed Jesus as “*Lord*” she obtained an immediate answer. Humbling herself and appealing for mercy she replied: “. . . *even the puppies eat of the crumbs which fall from the masters’ table*.” Jesus responded: “*O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt*.” And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

As we daily make ourselves available to the Lord in dependence upon Him, let us remember the warning of the Lord Jesus: “*How can ye believe, who receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that comes from God only*” JOHN 5:44. Some people want to be the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral! God never says that He will give us humility, but, as we “*draw near to God*” He says: “*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord*” JAMES 4:10. Yes, humility before God and before men is the precursor of a great faith. When Jesus spoke of faith as a grain of a mustard seed, He was not referring to the size of the seed but to the fact that it was a living and life-changing seed.

God’s Faithfulness

Before me is a cherished book. It was written by the late Dr. Howard Ferrin, then Chancellor of Barrington College. The book is titled *The Tallest Man*, of which it is written: “One cannot read this book with an open mind and a receptive heart without the desire to fall at the feet of our blessed Lord and exclaim with Thomas, ‘*My Lord and my God*.’” However, the reason why Dorothy and I mention this book at this time is because of the statement on the back cover:

This book is given to you as a gift from the author, Howard W. Ferrin, in honor and memory of the person and dream of Clarence W. Jones. That dream is summed up in the commitment made by HCJB World Radio, the Far East Broadcasting Company, Trans World Radio and others who have joined us. This commitment reads as follows:

We are committed to provide every man, woman and child on earth the opportunity to turn on their radio and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of His Church.

In 1930, from Quito, Ecuador, HCJB a miniature radio station of 250 watts commenced to broadcast the wonderful words of Life. In a minuscule way, Cross Currents International Ministries

continues to blend missionary radio with missionary literature as we embrace the vision to provide opportunity for people who speak 59 languages to receive the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Even though Dorothy and I are in our predawn years, we labor long and hard to see the ministry of CCIM reach people for Him. By the time you read this letter, we trust this container of Bibles will have reached Trans World Radio, Kenya for the free distribution to poor and spiritually hungry Kenyans who are responding to multiple radio outreaches. We praise the Lord that several of our prayer partners sent Bibles for this one time opportunity.

Firstfruits of blessing. When, Henry, the man in the picture, brought the empty container to be loaded, he met a small faithful band of volunteers sorting, labelling and packing the Bibles which had been received from across the States. One of the ladies, Gail, noticed him



looking at an open Bible and used the opportunity to lovingly befriend him and lead him to Christ. Henry left with the only copy of a Spanish/English Bible together with an address of a Spanish neighborhood Church. In the providence of God, Henry was again chosen to pick up the loaded container and he joined the band of volunteers as together they prayed over the Bibles he would drive to the docks.

As you are aware, CCIM is increasingly enjoying cooperative fellowship with Trans World Radio which, we understand, is the most extensive world wide network of missionary radio stations. We are so grateful for your continued prayers as much work is involved in preparing 15 minute radio programs to minister to people in China and Asia. Also, for the ongoing daily radio ministry in Arabic and ministry to every part of Kenya in these days of spiritual conflict. Reports indicate that efforts are being made to introduce Shariah Law in the New Year. Please pray that the 27,620 Bibles will be mightily used of God to the strengthening of His people.

We send our love and the above encouragement in Christ at this time. Thank you for your fellowship in Christ in these challenging days.

In His victory,