

Life after Death

Pastor Marvin R. Barham

2 Corinthians 13:4 *For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.*

Proverbs 8:35 *For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.*

What does it truly mean to have faith? If faith is obedience as with Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and even Christ? If as the Scripture says in **Philippians 2:8** (*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*) it was with Christ that faith is obedience unto death. **What is true obedience?** Is it just to follow the law to the jot and tittle? Many a religious have done so not to speak of the rich young ruler or even Enoch? Not that we should not obey the law but there must be something more to the obedience in faith that leads us through a death into an everlasting life.

In our carnal understanding and finite reality of the natural we perceive that after this life follows death. Yet time and time again, Christ tries to relay to His disciples, and unto us, that in the supernatural Kingdom of God that is made manifest through Christ in us, the reality is that death does not follow life but instead **life follows death**.

John 11:25 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: **John 14:19** Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.*

It is only when we die to self that we truly find real life. Matthew 10:39 *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.* I have founded that the hardest part of dieing to self is learning to truly trust God. **It is a real trust in God that leads to true obedience that leads to this death I speak of and is counted by God as real faith.** It is not the death like the suicide bomber of radical Islam. Any one could face hardship and die hoping to have died for a cause. But it is the greater faith to face hardship and live for the cause having died to self. To a world that thrives on self, this concept makes absolutely no sense thus when we speak of dieing they interpret to what they know of those who have strapped a bomb to themselves in the name of their religion. We do not die for a religion but we live for a faith. **The essence of religion is selfish, thus to die for selfishness is selfish. But we die to self not for self but for the glory and to the honor of our God.**

I have preached many times of trusting God, admonishing those who were going through trying times of their life to just trust Him. All the while, through my own admonishment I had convinced my heart and my head that I was truly trusting God. I had concluded that all my needs were met. I had a good job, healthy children, great marriage, a home, all the blessing and favor of the Lord because, well, I was trusting and honoring God. I was recognizing Him as the source of all the blessings in my life. I was praising Him and giving Him the glory. This is all good. We are to do these things. But God has shown me something this week. For starters, even as I speak of all these things "I" was receiving from God because of what "I" was doing for God. Just in my explanation to you I have used the word "I" thirteen times and "God" only seven. **There is still too much of me and too little of Him.** Second, what I considered trusting Him was revealed in my heart as fear of failure. Fear of failure rooted in pride of life, success, accomplishment, and ambition grown old. When I am faced with truly having to face the possibility of losing things, my trust is tried. **Trust tried by trial reveals a true heart.**

When God presents a possible death to the life you lead, your real faith or obedience is revealed. Do you truly believe that the blessing and prosperity of the life you lead exist only because of the God you serve? If so, then let Him challenge your keeping it and we will see if He is still the God you serve, whose it really is, and whose you really are?