

God Does Not Move Apart From Our Initiative

by Pastor Chris Simpson © 2003

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Hebrews 10:38-39 "Now the just shall live by faith: But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul"

In this scripture we see that believing is in contrast to drawing back. This implies that belief, or faith, is a drawing or moving forward. Saving faith is not merely a mental acknowledgment. James also establishes this when he writes,

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:17)

And,

"You believe? So what, the devils believe... and tremble." (James 2:19)

Believing is not the faith that pleases God. Faith is "drawing nigh to God." (James 4:8)

A little woman was scrambling on her knees because she was sick and couldn't be healed. After she touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was instantly healed, Jesus said to her, "Woman, your faith has made you whole." Some may ask, "What faith? I don't see her standing on the word, or claiming or naming, or doing any of those things we many times associate with faith." No, her faith is seen in what she did. It was manifest in her actions. That is what James means when he writes,

"You say you have faith without works, I'll show you my faith by my works." (James 2:18)

Faith is proving by what I do.

This is important because a root deception of Satan is that God will undertake something apart from your initiative. God doesn't undertake anything apart from the initiative of His people. You have not because why? Seek and what? Knock and what? The whole inference is that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. And, He has an abundance with which to reward us. All he asks is that we reach out and ask. It is the epitome of pride to presume that God is going to give us something apart from our initiative. It is the root deception behind many sins such as pride, self-righteousness, self-pity, passivity and discouragement.

If those of you reading this are saved by Jesus Christ, it is because somebody, somewhere prayed for you. For me, it was my Grandmother. Regardless of who, somebody took initiative, knocked on heaven's door and mentioned your name. And something released in your life because of that act of faith. Jesus said no one can come unto the Father unless he be drawn.

The kingdom has what I call the "you-go-first principle." This principle is applicable in all areas of our lives and ignorance of it is the reason behind most people's bondage. There is a belief system called Calvinism that implies you don't have a choice, even in your own salvation. I don't believe that. I don't believe that God has ever violated even one man's free choice from the beginning of time. I think it would be morally wrong for Him to do so. To violate the intent and moral basis upon which he created a free-will creature for some convenient reason would violate his own morality.

If God had felt free to violate our free will, He would never have had to go to the cross. He could have prevented Eve from ever having taken a bite of that forbidden fruit. But, He did not, instead allowing Eve to make that choice. God is not a preventer, he's a redeemer.

If God wanted, he could have saved 50 million lives by not allowing Adolph Hitler to live when he was gassed as a soldier in World War I. When he was laid up in an infirmary years before coming to power, all God would have had to do was give him a little push. But again, he did not. Please understand, Hitler was not the will of God. He was a horror, a prototype of the Anti-Christ. But God did not violate even this man's will. And He would never violate your will. He will woo you, encourage you, reprove you, rebuke you, send people your way, and give you stop signs, but you can choose to respond, or not to respond, as you will.

The point that we must understand is that everything that happens in our lives is either because we initiated it, or someone else initiated it by prayer. Somebody, somewhere must go to God before He will act. People are not healed because people are not asking. Or if they do, they are not asking by faith. They may be naming, claiming, and standing on the Word, but there is no genuine reaching out to Him in humility.

You may hear different ones talking about being in a dry place, but, the truth is, there is no such place as a dry place for Christians. The dry places are where demons go when they are cast out. Jesus said the water He gives would be in you a well of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4: 14). A well of water does not speak of a dry place. What happens is that people get passive and presumptuous, assuming God is going to do something apart from their crying out to Him and seeking His face.

Remember, the prodigal Son took only one step toward his father, and his father came running to Him. But the son took the first step, and so must we if we expect to see God move in our lives.

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