

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 393

Series: Solution-Focused Faith

Topic: The God of Faith

Date: 4th January 2005

Instructions for subscribing and unsubscribing to this newsletter are at the bottom of this email.

If this devotional is a blessing to you, maybe you have a friend or family member that would like to start receiving this daily bible study. You can forward this to them, and they can use the following link to subscribe. <http://www.aibi.ph/eternity/> or they can just send a blank email to: eternity-dbs-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org

Exodus 34:5-8 MKJV And Jehovah came down in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of Jehovah. (6) And Jehovah passed by before him and proclaimed, Jehovah! Jehovah God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, (7) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the sons, and on the sons of sons, to the third and to the fourth generation. (8) And Moses made haste and bowed toward the earth, and worshiped.

Romans 11:29-36 MKJV For the free gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (30) For as you also then disbelieved God, but now have been shown mercy through their disbelief, (31) even so these also have not believed now, so that through your mercy they may also obtain mercy. (32) For God has shut up all in unbelief, so that He might show mercy to all. (33) O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! (34) For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? (35) Or who first gave to Him, and it will be repaid to him? (36) For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things; to Him be glory forever! Amen.

James 1:17 MKJV Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning.

God is not a philosophy or a concept, He is an active Being whose attributes describe His actions. Thus when God creates "peace" it is not just mental peace or inner peace – rather it is tangible peace that is wars cease to the ends of the earth and the field blossoms and people live to a great age in happiness and contentment.

When God creates righteousness it is not just inner righteousness (though that is included) but also overall justice, fair systems, widows are protected from scams, orphans are sheltered, laws are obeyed, the world is put right way up.

When God gives grace then bondages are broken, life becomes free, healing breaks out, miracles occur, the Church grows and “great grace was upon them all”.

And when God sends joy then the whole of Creation is lifted up in celebration and rejoices with His rejoicing, life moves up a notch, sadness is banished, the city celebrates, the spirit of heaviness is replaced by the garment of praise and the flowers bloom and the wilderness breaks into song.

Because that which happens on earth is an extension of God’s character in Heaven we need to understand the nature of the good and wise God we trust, pray to and have faith in. The nature of God is the nature of the Being that controls reality. The nature of God is thus directly connected to how things are, how healthy I am, how much I am paid, and so forth. That is why Jesus could say:

Matthew 6:26-30 MKJV Behold the birds of the air; for they sow not, nor do they reap, nor gather into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them; are you not much better than they are? (27) Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? (28) And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They do not toil, nor do they spin, (29) but I say to you that even Solomon in his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) Therefore if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much rather clothe you, little-faiths?

Jesus is saying that the goodness and faithfulness of God can be seen in fat sparrows and beautiful lilies. It is God who is feeding them, it is God who is clothing them. God’s nature is seen in nature and how it is organized.

It is God’s goodness and faithfulness that are feeding you and clothing you.

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to love our enemies. The basis for this is that our heavenly Father that loves His enemies and the tangible sign of this divine love is that He sends His rain on the just and the unjust. The outward circumstances – rain on the just and the unjust – matches the nature of God – He loves His enemies.

God’s nature and our circumstances are meant to be tightly connected. However we ended up disconnected from God and serving Satan instead, we wanted Las Vegas instead of Heaven. But being “in Christ” means reconciliation with God and being put back under His rulership where His nature manifests in all the circumstances of our lives.

Living faith is when we realize that God’s nature rules our circumstances and we decide to trust that absolutely. Faith says: “because God is good then my life will be good because God will make it that way. He cannot make it any other way because He is good to those who love Him.”

The fact that God is “abounding in goodness and truth” means that He has a great reservoir of good and that He will be true to us, solid, unwavering and eternal in His blessings in this life and the next. God is not just good in a distant philosophical sense. Rather He is “working all things together for good”. His outward actions

“working” reflects His inner nature “good”. And this working of God is on our behalf – “for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28)

The fact that God is light means that He is perfect and there is no imperfection in Him at all and that all His gifts are good and wise and without repentance (see opening verses). We can trust God to give us what is right for us, in fact what is perfect for us.

Faith enables us to experience the nature of God in action. The blind man believed in a healing God and was healed, David believed in a powerful God and was victorious over Goliath, the thief on the cross believed in a gracious and merciful God and entered Paradise. Faith opens the doors to the reality of God’s character in action in our lives.

When Jesus and the disciples were at sea and the storm arose Jesus slept because he was confident about God’s keeping power, and when the disciples were frightened Jesus said “Why are you afraid of ye of little faith”. Jesus was totally confident of the goodness of God overriding the circumstances of the storm. Anxiety means we have stopped believing or are doubting that God’s goodness will rule over our circumstances.

Solution-focused faith sees God’s goodness and joy and grace and love and righteousness and providence manifesting powerfully in the midst of human circumstances to produce “peace, be still” solutions of total perfection. Faith calls on God to manifest His benevolent character in the midst of daily life.

If you are getting “shafted” at the office you can call on God to manifest His perfect justice and to protect the righteous interests of those who love Him.

If you are knee deep in debt you can call on God to make manifest His mercy and grace and cause your debts to be forgiven or removed from you and you can call on His wisdom to teach you how to be wiser in future.

If your relationships are a mess you can call on the God of peace to manifest His peace in all the relationship of your life for He “cause the righteous to be at peace with his enemies”. Proverbs 16:7 MKJV When a man’s ways please Jehovah, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

If your life is depressing and joyless and a grind you can call on God to make His joy manifest in all your circumstances so that you live a life of celebration. You can call on the God who removes the spirit of heaviness and replaces it with the garment of praise.

You are entitled to this for two good reasons. Firstly you are in Christ and you are blessed with all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms including those above. In a human sense you may not be so entitled but in a divine sense you are.

Ephesians 1:2-3 MKJV Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ;

Secondly all the promises in the Bible are “yea and amen” in Christ. They are yours by inheritance in Him.

2 Corinthians 1:20 MKJV (20) For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God by us.

To activate your heavenly inheritance you may need to take some faith actions of your own. Firstly you may need to demonstrate your faith by speaking and acting in accordance with what you believe e.g. by deciding not to express fear in the storm, or by going and getting some stones for your sling in preparation for a victory over Goliath. Secondly you have to let God have His perfect way and not entertain panic-stricken short-cuts to grace that produce “Ishmaels”. Learn to trust God’s perfect plan and perfect timing (this is a real spiritual training exercise and it often is stressful at first but leads to peace.)

Solution-focused faith believes that God will manifest His wonderful and holy nature in wise and perfect and good ways in the midst of our normal daily lives.

Blessings,

John Edmiston (johned@aibi.ph)
Eternity DBS web-site: <http://www.aibi.ph/eternity/>

Donations are always appreciated: <http://www.aibi.ph/aibi/donate.htm>

You are receiving this email because you either subscribed on the website, or sent an email to the subscribe address. We do not subscribe people without their consent.

To subscribe - send a blank email to:
eternity-dbs-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org
To unsubscribe - send a blank email to:
eternity-dbs-unsubscribe@strategicnetwork.org