

TRUMPET SOUNDS

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FAITH TO FAITH

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Glass is clear, and if you put something into the glass it is easily seen unless you are looking at it darkly. It does not say the glass is dark but that we are looking through the glass **darkly**. This is like the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Jesus crucifixion, yet the person of Jesus entered the walk with them: ***Luke 24:15-16 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.*** Their minds concluded Jesus' death as they had witnessed, therefore when Jesus entered the walk with them their minds could not reconcile it to be their Savior. Their sight was held back by reasoning Him dead.

Our feelings or circumstances darken how we look at Truth. Thus, instead of seeing Truth clearly, we see it darkly. We attest to know Truth but darkened vision only grasps in part. Having our understanding "in part" divides us between Truth, yet lacks the solidity of the whole to adopt into our being.

To see the Lord faith to faith is to **know**, and knowing settles the matter. Many say they know the Word, but to know something is to credit it, embrace and apply it. We know **of** the Word in part.

I wear glasses when I read the Word, yet while I am able to read every word I still may be in the dark as far as applying it to my reality. I may speak and act from my reality yet distant from the Word I just read. So while the Word is clear, I am in the dark...at a distance and not faith to faith...face to face.

We can only see Him through the eyes of faith. That was what Job finally discovered. Job could only see in part. He looked at things darkly. Job spoke darkly until finally he says: ***Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.***

Job saw the Lord faith to faith and once he stopped looking darkly, seeing only in part, everything changed. Ultimately his faith saw and he openly repented for not understanding. When we do not see God clearly, we cannot see ourselves clearly as well. We were created for a purpose that is larger than ourselves. If we cannot see the purpose clearly how can we see our self-purpose?

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

What does the Scripture mean, ***when he shall appear?*** The word appear is phaneroo means to render apparent or to solidify and make concrete...our faith. When our faith is solid as rock we will see Jesus clearly in order for us to be like Him.

When he shall appear; we shall be like Him. When? When does this finally happen? Well, look at the Scripture just above 1 Co 13:12, which reads:

1 Cor 13:10-11 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Perfect here is the word *teleios* meaning becoming complete, of full growth mentally and morally. It is talking about maturity in faith...solid faith. Not merely faith in part. Faith in part reminds me of someone interested in dabbling in faith superficially yet not immersed in it. It goes on to the next verse proving the subject matter:

If When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

To call ourselves "children of God" is no excuse to be an adult of immature faith. Children have the need to grow and blossom in faith.

This is a new year. What are your resolutions? Most think of the physical such as diet and exercise or breaking old habits. It is time to put application to the Word.

Without application the Word is just a nice story we hear and disregard as valid to our daily lives. However, it is more than that; it is taking the Lord's name in vain...meaning to no effect.

Lose the sunglasses that block out the light of revelation. Stop looking darkly at everything and see the Lord faith to faith.

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BEING ABEL IS BEING ABLE

Heb 11:4 *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

In Abel's short life he pleased God and obtained such a witness that he was accounted righteous and even though dead is still an example that lives on today.

Even in our English language we have attached the suffix *able*, which is interesting since *able* is not only a suffix but a whole word by itself meaning: capable, having ability.

LEARN OF ME

Matt 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

The Lord gave this to me as I started my day. It rolled and rolled in my mind and the more it rolled the more I learned. Since God's Spirit wants me to comprehend what is being said, I must study it as a workman. You see, I do not get to make up my own mind about what is being stated here. I have to learn it, because He said *learn of me*.

First Jesus says *take my yoke upon you*, so I want to know all I can about being yoked together with Jesus.

The word *yoke* is *zugos* meaning: to join, especially by a "yoke"; a *coupling*, that is, (figuratively) *servitude*, also (literally) the *beam* of the balance (as *connecting* the scales): - pair of balances, yoke.

Yoke is more than a joining together but also to balance the weight of something as on scales. Jesus is telling us to join Him to balance the weight of something...What does He need us to balance? Look what the

equipped. In other words, it means having sufficient power, skill, or resources to accomplish. The entire New Testament teaches on our being able through Christ, and that nothing is impossible. The Word shows us how we are capable, having ability and being equipped with sufficient power, skill, and resources to accomplish anything we set our hands to do. God needs our ability. Look at the word *able* and learn how to become Abel.

Acceptable means that we are able to accept God's plan for our lives making us acceptable to God.

Achievable=able to achieve

Scripture says next: *and learn of me*. The word *learn* is *manthano* meaning to increase knowledge with understanding. Of course, the subject of learning is pointed to Jesus' character, which in turn is God Himself. If we knew God like we thought, Jesus would not have told us to balance our knowledge by learning of Him. Then Jesus goes on to say that He is

Meek: *praos* gentle, humble

Lowly: *tapeinos* base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly... **in heart:** *kardia* the *thoughts* or *feelings* (*mind*); also (by analogy) the *middle*: - (+ broken-) heart (-ed).

The character Of God is the opposite of haughtiness...or to drop a name, Satan. The reason Jesus tells us to learn of Him is because He knows there is an enemy afoot to deceive us and to act as god. Satan is the thief that steals from us, kills us and destroys as much as is possible. **John 10:10** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:* Yet many Old Testament figures believed God as the thief that took away

Attainable=able to attain

Reconcilable=able to reconcile

Available=able to avail

Endurable=able to endure

Foreseeable=able to foresee

Forgiveable=able to forgive

Gainable=able to gain

Harvestable=able to harvest

Honorable=able to honor

Loveable=able to love

Obtainable=able to attain

Perceivable=able to perceive

from them: **Job 9:12** *Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?* **Job 12:20** *He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.* God is thought to be the one who kills: **Job 13:15** *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:* God is credited as the destroyer: **Job 6:9** *Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!*

Jesus is telling us about the enemy, yet Job is calling the enemy God, however, Jesus said: **John 10:11** *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Job did not have a right balance of knowledge even though he had a reverence for God. How many people quote Job's words as Truth because they are written in the Bible? Something that was truly said does not make it Truth. For example:

Matt 5:21-22 *Ye have heard that it*

Recognizable=able to recognize

Respectable=able to give respect

Servable=able to serve

Stable=able to stay the course

Sustainable=able to sustain

Notice the relationship of words, for example: We are *forgivable* if we are *able to forgive*. To be *loveable* we must be *able to love*, and to be considered *honorable* we must *show honor*. To *avail* we must be *available*. If we want to be *recognizable* we must be *able to recognize*. For God to count us as *reliable* we must be *able to rely* upon Him. Being Abel is first being able.

was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matt 5:27-28 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:*

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

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LEARN OF ME Continued

Matt 5:38-39 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matt 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

The conclusion: ***Matt 5:48 Be ye***

therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Teleios is the word for perfect in that Scripture meaning complete, of mature thought, fullness of knowledge.

Did you realize that there is rest in knowing the character of God and confusion in not being sure about His divine character? You have seen the WWJD on various bracelets to remind us to ask the question, What Would Jesus Do, to anything questioning our soul. It is a good measuring device for a right balance, because if you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father. To learn of Jesus we can see God.

We see the fruit of God's character written: ***Gal 5:22-23 But the***

fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. This is God's character. God is not saying, "Do as I say, not as I do," but He is saying, "Do as I do."

Jesus does not take on our personality even though we give Him credit for our feelings and words. We are to take on His personality and His Words. We speak of Jesus from our point of view, which is limited. We need to see things from God's view, which is perfect. Man is forever trying to re-invent the wheel that can never be well rounded.

Christians have received some of

Jesus into their hearts. We accept being saved and forgiven, but being totally changed is another matter. Going to the cross to be forgiven is not the hard part. The difficulty is dying there and leaving the old man that we may resurrect and walk by the spirit.

We do not like denying the flesh of its wants and habits. Instead we make excuses like saying, "Well, God understands me." Yes, God does understand mankind, which was the purpose for His appearance and death upon a cross. If we cannot also die at the cross, we make His death of no effect. Until we die at the cross we cannot resurrect. Resurrection is only for one who has put to death all old things.

GOT TO LOVE CREATION



Some people love babies and then there are those silly canine people. Can you guess in which category I fall? Skeeter, our first, is at the top. Counterclockwise is Bitsie, Sugar and Chewy. We have a nice large family.

Each one has his and her own personality very unique and special. Skeeter is the smartest boy, Bitsie is our rambunctious ball of energy, Sugar is sweeter than her given name, and Chewy is the most

expressive and an attentive follower who makes you love him because he gives so much love. The happiest moment, when they seem the most contented, is all piled on my lap e'r I sit.

One thing rings true to form as any canine owner will attest is that dogs love unconditionally. They love us when we are either at our best or worst, pretty or ugly, well or feeling poorly. They overlook our faults even without our apologies. They miss us when we are gone and shower us with affection when we return, even though we just left the room for a moment!

I believe God created dogs to be a visual example of unconditional love. You have probably even heard accounts of dogs rescuing or saving their master at the risk of their own lives.

Mankind has a hard time with giving or accepting unconditional love. There are times we do not want to forgive and times we cannot forgive ourselves

and feel that we require punishment from God to make us more deserving of His love, yet God is just glad we returned home.

Dogs are also natural healers: ***Luke 16:20-21 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.***

It is a known fact called zoopharmacognosy that dogs self-medicate naturally by licking a wound. They have a protein called Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) in saliva. Wounds that were treated with NGF actually healed twice as fast as untreated wounds, indicating that if a dog does lick a human's wound, it could in fact lead to a faster recovery.

We take for granted some of the

wonderful creatures God created and presented to Adam for companionship in his new surroundings. Each uniquely designed for a purpose.

Of course, not everyone is enamored with the canine brood, but instead talk to their plants and cats or savor the beauty of trees in autumn or snow capped mountains. We see God's beauty, grandeur, humor, patience and unconditional love in His creation. Take a moment to enjoy God's personality in His vast creation. I do...aren't they precious?





PARROT FAITH

A parrot is a bird, but *to parrot* is to mimic. The reason parrot and mimic are synonymous is because the bird is an imitator. They are taught words or phrases to say and they repeat them. Here is the exact definition of the word parrot:

1. brightly colored tropical bird; a bird with a strong hooked beak and variously colored, often brilliant plumage, some species of which can mimic speech.
2. somebody who copies others: a repeater of something that somebody else has said, without thought or understanding
3. copy other people: to repeat what somebody else says or

writes without having thought about it or understood it.

Many Christians are quite colorful in their ability to talk about their faith but do not demonstrate what they are saying. True faith is in the demonstration. You can talk about the love of Jesus without showing it to others and receive the forgiveness through Christ's shed blood and still have aught against a brother or sister...Why? Because we are parroting what the Word says. We do not demonstrate the Word because it has not become us. If we do not become what we preach we are merely

parroting words of no effect.

If people cannot see our faith of what use is it? We can talk until we are blue in the face, and usually they are the words we have need to hear and consider rather than throwing them in another direction for someone else to live up to.

What we really believe, we demonstrate to others. You cannot give away what you do not possess. Children who have been church-ed know the words to parrot, while their lives are far from it. This kind of parrot faith is worse than

none at all because it does way more damage to those hungry for Truth and find themselves surrounded by parrots of famine.

Polly may want a cracker but will never eat the bread of life until it is realized that those words hold Life and Truth if we can receive it, believe it, apply it and demonstrate it. Amen?



THANKFUL FOR THE FLEAS

All things are relative to the moment and situation. Take fleas for example. A flea is a blood sucking nuisance causing the infested to scratch until wounds appear. You cannot begin to thank God for these little parasites, yet for some the flea represented deliverance.

Here is an excerpt from Corrie Ten Boom: *"Barracks 8 was in the quarantine compound. Next to us—perhaps as a deliberate warning to newcomers—were located the punishment barracks. From there, all day long and often into the night, came the sounds of hell itself. They were not the sounds of anger, or of any human emotion, but of a cruelty altogether detached: blows landing in regular rhythm, screams keeping pace. We would stand in our ten-deep ranks with our hands trembling at our sides, longing to jam them against our ears, to make the sounds stop. It grew harder and harder. Even within these four*

walls there was too much misery, too much seemingly pointless suffering. Every day something else failed to make sense, something else grew too heavy."

Yet, in the midst of the suffering, the women prisoners around Corrie and her sister Betsie found comfort in Betsie's witness of the Word of God.

When they were moved to Barracks 28, Corrie was horrified by the fact that their reeking, straw-bed platforms swarmed with fleas. How could they live in such a place? It was Betsie who discovered God's answer: *"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus."* They began to thank God for every single thing about this new barracks! Corrie's heart was not seeing the revelation which came easier to Betsie, but began to thank God for the fact they were together. They thanked God

they had a Bible. They even thanked God for the horrible crowds of prisoners, that more people would be able to hear God's Word. Then, Betsie thanked God for the fleas, for which Corrie replied, *"The fleas! This is too much. Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea."* Yet, encouraged by her sister, Corrie ended up thanking God for the fleas even though her heart did not agree with it.

The women were able to have Bible studies in the barracks with a great deal of freedom, never bothered by supervisors coming in and harassing them. They finally discovered that it was the fleas that kept those supervisors out.

Through those fleas, God protected the women from abuse and harassment making it possible to worship God without interference. Dozens of desperate women were free to hear the comforting, hope-giving Word of God. Through those fleas, God protected the

women from much worse things and made sure they had their deepest, truest needs met.

We all have "fleas" in our lives. We all have those things for which we can see no use, things that are obviously horrible, unpleasant, painful things that we want gone. No life is free of "fleas", and they would never be considered a blessing unless it was the right circumstance.

There are many unseen blessings that have come from the most unwanted places, yet at the right time a key ingredient for the blessing. That is what is meant by "a blessing in disguise".

The key here was more than fleas but in being thankful to God in all things...*even* the fleas. If your life is becoming infested...start thanking God in the midst of it, and you will see the infestation turn out to be a miracle in disguise or you can complain and simply be bitten.

VERBS AND SCRIPTURES

Verbs, by definition, are words that show action or helping and state of being. If you think about it, you cannot have a complete sentence without a verb in place. The verb and subject are key to the sentence.

Scriptures are also sentences showing action or helping and state of being. We cannot have a completed life of destiny and purpose without the Scriptures in place.

Look at this sentence: ***Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure,***

pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.

Now, if we remove the action or helping and state of being verbs it reads: ***and it unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, men into your bosom.***

To take all of the action, helping and state of being words out of the Scriptures we have nothing, for without these three things nothing can or will happen.

We expect the promises to work

for our needs, but when we are not completing the ***action, helping*** or completed in our ***state of being*** in the Truth, it is not a completed promise.

In all Scripture the verbs are man's actions, helping or state of being and God's return in actions or helping because of His State of Being! You see God is the **I AM** to everything and anything, but if we are the AM NOTS, what can be expected?

Subjects and verbs must also agree to make a sentence. In Scripture the promises are

generally the subject and the verb must agree to complete the action of the promise. Therefore, if we do not have the agreement of the action, helping or state of being to agree with the subject or promise hoped for, it is incorrect and the only thing to be done is to erase it all or correct it.

Being good receivers of the benefits means that we have made completed passes (action, helping and state of being) rather than letting the promises fumble from our grasp at the yard line.

FACING THE DEN

We read the story of Daniel in the lion's den in a brief few paragraphs giving the short version of one whole, entire, looong night. We do not picture Daniel as he waited to be lead up to the site of this cave where the weight of torment came in waves to his mind. Yet, when I read this today, I remembered as a child sitting in the waiting room at the doctor's office knowing a syringe, aimed below the belt, could be my fate. One minute seemed to take hours in a cold sweat and anguish. The terror continued when moving from the waiting room to a sterile room and again waiting alone, eyes traveling the instruments of torture and a pleading heart begging God for this cup to pass from me.

We do not read what Daniel felt as they prepared him for his fate. For one brief moment I close my eyes and try to picture his face. Daniel was just a man who served his God like you and I. You and I are being lead to the den. What

do we feel inside, and what is the look on our face as we approach? Do we look defiantly at the den and say, "Bring on the lions!" I ***don't*** think so! We are more likely asking God how we are going to walk out of this alive.

No one can tell me when facing the lion's den that we have not already pictured the lions tearing our flesh down to the bone.

Considering Bible characters we somehow slide to the end of the story victoriously without the graphics and forethoughts of the awaiting, snarling, fanged fate of blood, sweat and tears. Yet we view our own situations and circumstances without the victory of sliding to the end of a victorious story, while unavoidably facing the anguish of the sentence and the long, long night.

That is only a taste of the walk to the den. It does not begin to touch actually being in the den of death surrounded by the stench of the enemy or the hot breath

and snarling sounds that you now experience within the darkness of that tomb hour after endless hour. One thing that is absent from a shut up den or cave is light. Unless you bring it with you there is none. Everything was out of Daniel's hands so he clasps his hands together to pray. Prayer was all he had and ***everything*** he had in that moment.

How easily we read over our heroes knowing their victory, yet how little we embrace this same victory to our own sentence and walk to the den. When everything has been stripped away and everything is out of your hands...you clasp those hands in prayer. Prayer is not the only thing you have; it is ***everything*** you have in that moment. You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have. Daniel must have come to this conclusion with God in that den of death.

To what den has the enemy lead you?

- Abandoned by a spouse?
- Death of a loved one?
- Your child in turmoil?
- Cancer?
- Addiction?
- Bankruptcy?
- Feeling the inability to produce results in old age?
- Raped of the enemy?

Look back at the story of you to see how many victorious endings there were when faced with the den. **You walked out alive.** When you find that everything is out of your control and out of your hands, you clasp your empty hands in fervent prayer and find that God is greater than the den.

When we come to understand that worry is just a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear, we cast off fear and grab hold of Jesus...then we stand up and walk out.