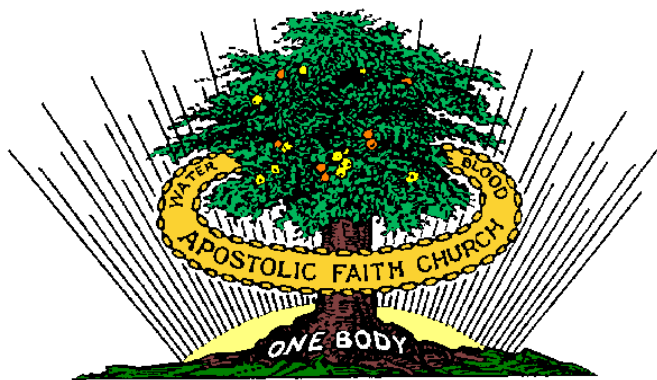


Apostolic Faith Church
66 Muscliffe Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH9 1NW



Showers of Blessing

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To Have And To Hold

When we come to think upon the teachings of the Apostolic Faith Church, and undertake a review of what we believe; and above all claim for this work - which we uncompromisingly assert is the Faith of God - our convictions might easily stagger the average believer in the Christian faith. Ought we to stagger too?

It was counted as a mark of righteousness to Abraham that he did not stagger at the exceeding great and precious promise made to him, that he and his seed should be heirs of the world. We read that he did not doubt, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God!

This promise of inheritance was not given to Abraham or his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. To have the faith of Abraham embraces the quickening power of the Word of God, which is able to call those things which be not, as though they were - a faith which can believe such things into existence!

Had Abraham staggered through unbelief and doubted the possibility of receiving a son through faith in the Word given to him, then God could not have quickened Sarah, his ninety years old wife, anymore than Jesus could do mighty works where there was unbelief. Can we walk in the steps of faithful Abraham? Certainly, if we attain to that calibre of faith!

We have the most excellent foundation for holding fast to what we believe, and that is, the written Word of God: enriched further by the enlightening fountain of the current Word. These are the revelations which flow, and should be expected to continue: for the light is to shine more and more unto the perfect day! A day when the knowledge of the Lord will cover the nations as the waters cover the seas; when the authoritative Word of the Christ shall fully reign over all in every matter.

How is this perfect day to be brought about? It has been made clear that the great and extensive work of the Second Advent is the restitution or restoration of all things to their original perfection, which were lost in Adam, through his disobedience. Furthermore, that for this task the Lord would require a new Body of many members - His Church - composed of all those tried and tested overcomers of the Gospel Age; and who would be operating from both sides of the veil, when the due time came.

The exponents of the false doctrine which ever since 1830 have taught that the Lord's return was imminent, and always only a few years away, has built up false expectations in people to look for Him as He was, and not as He is! Meantime, encouraging them to ignore the world's grave issues, claiming that the Lord will put everything right when He comes, without their being involved; has led to a wrong emphasis on Christian activities and ideas, as to the purpose of the Redeemer's coming.

It is clearly evident from the study of the Divine Plan, that there exists a principle ordained by God, that because by man sin came into the world - in order to learn

righteousness and the lessons of strict justice - man's recovery from the appalling results must be accomplished by man himself.

To "redeem" means to "buy back"; and as the man Christ Jesus bought back the life-rights and blessings lost in Adam, his object is not to destroy the unbelievers, but to restore them fully to righteousness. The Word was made flesh and became man to redeem man, He was put to death a fleshly being, but was raised a Spirit being; which He was before becoming a man. It is this "Spirit being" who returns through the flesh of His redeemed overcomers. Those who see Him as He is - as the Word - can be empowered with the creative Word of faith, which is the ordained method by which He gradually restores all things.

To claim that such a role is entrusted to those who share this Faith, is indeed an amazing fact to digest, and not at all easy to believe! Supposing though that one in all humility were to say, it is far too great an honour to accept that the Lord would so endow one; and reflect that they felt much too unworthy ever to try or dare to walk with the Lord in this way - as a co-worker - what then is the Lord to do?

He exclaims almost in frustration, that when He cometh where shall He find faith such as this kind, in the earth, upon which His restitution work depends.

The realisation of the principles by which God has ordained man's recovery, is through the faith of people working the works of God while upon the earth; helps one to accept the position held out to "even me", for the meekest of the earth may respond.

To take upon oneself such a faith is a challenge, and furthermore ought it not to be seen as our bounden duty, and as a call from the One who gave His all for us? If we cannot bring ourselves to believe for God to work through such as ourselves, in order to transform the earth, then He has to go on searching for others, who would only be ordinary people such as ourselves.

Remember the Lord chooses the things that are not, to bring to nought the things that are. To as many as believe after this manner, to them gives He power to the same degree which their faith attains unto. God is also no disrespecter of the meek and lowly; and will have respect to the rich in faith.

Let us give glory to God, as did Abraham when he believed the Word unto him; and so become heirs with faithful Abraham! We recommend that you read Romans 4:13-25, in connection with the above.

Article written by the late Pastor R. Pain, first published in Showers number 3563, 8/9/83.

