

shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Going back to that miraculous draught (load) of fishes in

(Luke 5:4-10) It is worth noting that when the disciples enclosed a great multitude of fishes that their net broke. They then beckoned to their partners who came and filled both their ships. Their thoughts must have been filled with fish, fish, fish; food, food; money, money. They must have forgotten the Lord, the Giver of those blessings and they must have forgotten to thank Him for it. Why? Because "they began to sink". It looked like they were going to lose everything. But, "When Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' feet saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." This confession and humility generated mercy from Jesus who saved Peter and the other disciples and their ships and the fishes from getting lost in the sea. "And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him."

Yes, money did not mean anything to them now as long as they had the Lord. They had learned their lesson the hard way, but at least they did learn their lesson.

And so, Christians must have faith in God. Why? Because we read in Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him:..." Also Romans 14:23

BLESSING THROUGH FAITH

Faith is taking God at His Word. God's promises are true. God, Who cannot lie, has made promises and God's children must believe and act on His promises. This is very true in all phases of life, both spiritual and physical. We must relate God's Word to financial prosperity. Christians must do just as God says. **Here are some of God's precious promises that you can claim: Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38, Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Malachi 3:8-12, Philippians 4:19**

WHY GOD WITHHOLDS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN

God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not know or believe these **FIVE VITAL TRUTHS:**

#1 YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD IF YOU ARE A TRUE

CHRISTIAN. Galatians 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

#2 AS A CHILD OF GOD, BELIEVE THAT GOD IS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

#3 BELIEVE THAT YOUR FATHER IS VERY RICH.

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Haggai 2:8 "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

#4 SINCE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS RICH, BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ALSO RICH BEING HIS SON,

except that you have not enough money. Remember, you are a child of the KING.

#5 BELIEVE IN YOUR FATHER'S PROMISES THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU HIS RICHES.

Romans 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

1 Timothy 6:17 "...trust...in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"

Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

WHY then, are most Christians poor? **WHY** do not most children of God have enough money? The answer is: **GOD WITHHOLDS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN.** Now, God is kind and loving, and is

willing to give His children riches. The reasons why He does not are recorded in the Holy Scriptures for our guidance and admonition.

HE WITHHOLDS FOR TWO MAIN REASONS:

FIRST: BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH HIS MONEY. He mentions four cases:

A. PRIDE - Some of God's children, when they prosper become proud.

Deuteronomy 8:14 When God gives us a large sum of money we do not thank Him for the blessing. We begin to think we got the money because of our hard work or intellect. We then think we are better than others because we have more money, better clothes, a nicer car, and a bigger house. Some even join social clubs because their heart has been lifted up with pride. How deceitful can we be?

B. FORGETTING GOD - Deuteronomy 8:14

****A SERIOUS WARNING IS GIVEN:** Deuteronomy 8:11-18

C. LOVING MONEY - Some of God's children, as soon as they prosper quickly transfer their love from God to His money.

1 Timothy 6:10, Luke 15:11-24

D. WRONG SPENDING - Some of God's children when they become prosperous, spend their money on evil things, selfish and foolish things and wordly pleasures. James 4:2-3

Some times God uses a shortage of money as a means of chastisement in order to get our attention.

Brethren, can you be trusted with money? Will your heart be lifted up with pride? Will you forget the Lord your God? Will you love money, the gift, more than the GIVER? And will you use God's money for evil purposes?

If you can be trusted, God will surely keep His promise in Romans 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

So you do your part, and God will keep His promises.

SECOND: God WITHHOLDS financial prosperity from his children **BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE FAITH IN HIM.**

What is faith? The simple definition is: **FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.** That is, doing just exactly as God's Word says. God has given specific instructions in His Word, the Bible, on how His children should get money from Him. The problem is, most of God's children do not faithfully follow His simple instructions. These instructions are God's secrets to financial prosperity.

Luke 5:4-6 We read here of a time when Peter and the other disciples went fishing. That was their occupation. They toiled all night and caught nothing.

NOTICE THE COMMAND WITH A PROMISE: Luke 5:4

That was the Lord speaking. God's Word, instruction was given by the Creator of heaven and earth. Did Simon take the Lord at His Word? Yes, he did.

THEIR OBEDIENCE: Verse 5

This is faith - faith in action - true faith always acts. And the results:

THE LORD'S PROMISE FULFILLED:

Verse 6 They had plenty of fish (much money and food) because of their faith in God. They were taking God at His Word. They did what God said to do.

I can hear some people saying: "Lord, you are a carpenter and I am a fisherman. What do you know about fishing?" or "Don't you know Lord, that fish only bite best at night time?" or "Please mind your own business and let me do it my way." Remember that God knows best. Put your trust and faith in Him.

We should not only hear the Word of GOD, but we should also do what GOD tells us to do.

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,"

Mark 11:22-24 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever