

FREEDOM FROM TEMPTATION

BERTIE BRITS

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It's such a joy for me to come and bring you the Gospel of God's Grace! It's such a blessing to just know that this message of Grace will empower you to God's quality of life. God loves you. God cares for you. He has dreamed you before time. He has always wanted you. He is your Friend. He is your Father. He is the one who has come to share His life with you.

Today I am going to be talking about temptation and patience and what it means to be tempted and how temptation works. Many times we are tempted and when we go through temptations we think that the devil has tempted us with lying or stealing, to fear, to speak wrong and not speak positive. We think the devil goes around tempting us with all these fleshly things. The devil has tempted you to drink too much or he has tempted you to speed or he is tempting you with bitterness, fear, and all those things. Now I want to tell you that the devil does not tempt us with those kind of things. I don't think that is how it works. Temptation is something completely different and I think when we can start to understand what temptation really is we will live free from falling into true temptation.

Prayer:

Father, I want to thank You so much that we can talk about Your goodness, Your mercy and Your grace. Thank You that You empower me to speak powerfully to people today. Thank You, Lord, that You come and You have given us a key. You have given us a gift. You have given us the power where we can resist temptation which will empower us to a life where we live free from falling into temptation of the devil. Thank You that You strengthen us. Thank You that You are for us! Thank You that we can walk in the victory of Your goodness and Your mercy and Your grace towards us.

Thank You, Lord, that You didn't come and put us up like a sitting duck and see if we can dodge the bullets of the devil but You have given us something that can actually empower us against what wants to destroy us. Thank You for that, Lord! Amen and amen!

I remember when there was a time in my life when I would go through a hard time I wouldn't know if it was God or is it the devil or is it just circumstances. There was confusion in my life because I didn't know if I must resist the devil, bind, the devil, is God purifying me or testing me or bringing me through hard times to see if I am really His child. Was it something like when He tested Abraham if he would give his child? Then when you qualify, or when you pass the test, then you go to the next level. I remember times when I was thinking that spirituality and maturity worked in these levels, where when you just get saved God loves you the way you are but then that only lasts for about three, four or five months. As time goes on, God is now going to purify you and He is going to try and get you to mature. And in maturing you He is going to take you through difficult times. He's going to bring you through situations where He is purifying your faith, purifying, maturing you to the Christian that He always wanted or on to the child that is robust in his belief and one of the ways that He does that would be hard times.

I remember a time when I believed that it wasn't just hard times but it was hard times plus the Word of God and teachings. God will mature you through a combination of hard times, teachings, as well as the Holy Spirit prompting you. I had a good mixture there. Then when I would go through a hard time, I wouldn't know if this is God. The moment I was going through a hard time I would say, "God, what are You trying to tell me? God, what are You trying to say to me because I am going through this hard time?" There might be people watching now who may be going through cancer, or financial difficulties, or going through depression. You might be depressed. If you are honest with yourself you feel depressed. You might have children who are disobedient, they don't want to listen. They are going through hard times. You might have kids who won't allow you to see your grandkids. You might be going through so many difficult times and when you see these things, you say, "God, what are You trying to say to me? What are You trying to communicate with me?" I want to tell you something. God is not trying to say anything to you through that hard time. God is not trying to communicate anything to you through that hard time! That hard time is not designed by God! It is not something that God has brought over your past to bring forth good in your life! We don't need hard times to bring forth salvation to man. God has come to save us from death. He has come to save us from sin and He has brought something very robust that we can have in our hearts and when we have that in our hearts we will be able to resist the devil in these difficult times.

When you go through these hard times, don't think it is God that is trying to teach you something! The Bible says that we have apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The Bible also says that He will give us the Holy Spirit and He will remind us of everything we have freely received in Christ. When you receive something that is freely received in Christ, that is what gives you life. That is how God teaches you by reminding you of what you freely received in Christ. If hard times was a teacher of the church, if difficult times was what God used to purify you, there would be no need for the blood of Jesus. There would be no need for the salvation plan or the cross. The only thing that would have been needed was some very bad tempered people who could just put other people in hard times and then through those hard times they could be purified. I want you to know this: God will never tempt you, put you through tests and trials to purify your faith. It is not as if our faith is not pure. The faith that God brought in Jesus Christ, the thing to believe in Jesus, is pure. The only way that we can have our faith purified is if we should have a mixture between Law and Grace where we would mix the belief in the grace of God with the mixture of a works righteous message, where we believe both, God will purify that. The way that He will purify it is just by correcting your belief. That is the best way. Another word for that is chastise which means to correct. He will correct your belief. How will He correct your belief? He will correct your belief by telling you the truth, by telling you how things really are. That's what He will do. He will communicate to your heart. He will bring preachers to your path. He will speak to your heart. He will give you dreams and visions. That is how He will communicate with you.

Many of us, when we have gone through hard times, we have come to a place where in that hard time we focus on the goodness of God. We think of how God loves us. We turn to God and we speak to God. When we speak to God He answers us and we get wisdom and understanding in that situation and instead of saying, "You know when I spoke to God, He answered me," we go and are deceived in saying that when you were in hard times, "God spoke to me." You can speak to God anytime and He will speak to you. You don't have to think that God used hard times to get to your heart. No, God was prompting your heart long ago and in the hard times when you decided to speak to God that was when you were hearing God. God didn't orchestrate the hard time to get you to talk to Him because He is not a wicked Father who will bring hard time over your path to purify you or to draw you closer to Him! God has drawn mankind close to Him. God has drawn mankind so close to Him that He actually became a man. He became human flesh. That's how close He has drawn us. He poured out the Holy Spirit that will speak to our heart to remind us of this truth.

When we look at the love of God in James 1 we are going to study some of the words in the Greek there and we are going to look at this temptation. Before we get into that I would like to give just a little background and a summary of what I want to say in this message.

James writes to the twelve tribes that were scattered so this was written to Jewish believers who were scattered. Church history tells us that this was written to people who were scattered after Stephen was stoned. After he was stoned, the Church got scared and they ran to different places and then James, the brother of the Lord, wrote this letter to the twelve tribes who were scattered. What was taking place was these two were going through persecution. They were going through hard times. They were persecuted by Romans. They were persecuted by Gentiles as they were sharing the Gospel. They were going through difficult times and what they wanted and what they were expecting is the return of the Lord and immortality in human flesh and they weren't seeing that.

We must realize that in our study of Church history and in our reading of the Bible, we need to realize that these people were expecting Jesus to come back any day and they were expecting that they wouldn't die. That's what they were expecting. These people believed and I want you to follow what I am saying. This is the truth that I am sharing with you. I've read it many times. I've studied the New Testament. This is what the New Testament Church believes. They had this expectation that because Jesus was raised from the dead and when they believed upon Him and they had the Holy Spirit inside them, that Jesus would return in their lifetime and they would never taste death. They would be immortal. That is what they believed. That is what their whole Christian faith was about. Paul and others were not going around preaching that Jesus died and went to heaven and now we have this hope that when we die we can go to heaven. No, what they were preaching is that we have the hope of immortality in a human body. That is what they preached. As that was being preached, some of the people who actually preached this started to die. As they were starting to die the way it looks to me is they had such a powerful voice of death in the presence of their Gospel, their Gospel could be questioned, "If this is the truth why are we not immortal? Why is the Gospel not working? What shall we do for this Gospel is not working? We are in a difficult time." That was a perfect time when we could take the message of Judaism which was a Law based message and try to amalgamate it or integrate it with the Grace message where people would then, through works, try to make what Christ has done work. I hope you are hearing what I am trying to say.

Some people would even go back to Judaism, completely go back to Judaism because of this persecution. Remember, people lost their homes, they lost their businesses because they became Christians. If you were Christian, don't think other Jewish people are going to do business with you. You would almost be treated like a tax collector. You were a cast out. You were called an enemy of God because you believed in the Cross. That is what it was all about.

With this in mind, I want to just say this about James. James writes to these Jewish people and what happens to them is they were going through hard times. As they were going through hard times, they were seeking proof of this salvation and the first thing the Jews would fall back into, as a proof of salvation, was financial prosperity. That was the first thing they were thinking of. They sat with Deuteronomy 28 which was something that was fresh in their minds. They had to know Deuteronomy. They had to learn it by heart. Most of the Jews did this especially the scholars, the scribes, the Pharisees, the people like Paul who sat under Gamaliel. He knew, "Blessed will you be in the fields... Blessed will you be... Blessed will you be..." Everything speaks about the blessing of your money, of your cattle, of your family and those kind of things. All these blessing would be in your life.

And then we even see this in Peter and the Apostles when Jesus said to the rich young ruler, "Go and sell everything and come follow Me." And after that Jesus said to the disciples, "It's very difficult for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Then they were astonished above measure and they said, "If the rich cannot be saved, who can then be saved?" They thought that as you obeyed the Law you would see first fruits as proof that you will be part of the Messianic reign. This proof that you are going to be saved from death, or you are going to be saved from the oppression of the Romans, would be financial prosperity. "Blessed will you be in the field. Blessed will you be your basket. Blessed will be the fruit of your kine.... Blessed.. blessed ... blessed...." All these blessings was what they thought would be the first fruit of salvation and they were not seeing that in believing in Jesus. They were seeing the opposite. What these people were looking at and what they were seeing was persecution. They were seeing people being beaten, people being killed. They were seeing they were losing their property. They were like Paul said, "Nakedness, distress, peril, the sword..." That's what they were partaking in and they were thinking, "Man, is this working or it it not working?"

A lot of them started to go back to Judaism where they started to practice the Jewish System again and where they would befriend the Jews again. They tried to mix these messages in and they were not doers of the true Gospel anymore but they went back to be doers of the Law of Moses. They started to become doers of the message of works righteousness and as they felt to do that, they started to befriend the rich again and they started to do business again and it started to go "a little bit better" with them. In this setting is what James chapter one is all about.

James 1:

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

When we look at that, it clearly says, "Count it all joy when you fall into these different temptations." What was this temptation? Was the temptation to go and eat a chocolate that is in the fridge when you know that you are on a diet? Was this temptation to go and drink a glass of wine when you're not supposed to drink a glass of wine? Was this temptation to swear or cuss? Was the temptation to have an outburst of wrath? What was the temptation that he was talking about? The scripture that says, "Count it all joy when you fall into different temptations", did not mean to count it joy when you feel tempted to fall with a woman. It doesn't mean to count it joy when you steal money or count it joy when you feel tempted to lose your temper. That is not what it means. These temptations mean something different.

Temptation means a putting to proof (by experiment of good, experience. What it says there is count it all joy when you fall into a place where you feel tempted to prove what you believe. So even if we look at Jesus, Jesus was tempted of the devil. He was at a place where He had to prove His sonship. So if we are at a place where we have to prove our sonship, it says, "Count it all joy!" So when you get to a place where, and this is what he was saying to these people, "You're persecuted. You are going through difficult times. You're not seeing immortality in your life. You are going through these difficult things." He says, "Count it all joy when you fall into all these things." Why does he say that? He said, "Knowing this that the trying of your faith works patience." He doesn't say, "Just be happy because you are going through a hard time." It says, "Be happy when you see hard times coming because of something else, knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

I want to go through, “the trying of your faith.” Let's just look at that. It says that the trying of your faith means: a testing, by implication, trustworthiness; trial, trying. I want to focus on the word, trustworthiness. When we look at the trying of your faith, that trying of your faith is something that is actually, it doesn't talk about testing there, it talks about trustworthiness. So what he is saying is that where you come to a place where you are tempted to go back to the Law, when you are in a place where the voice comes and says, “Prove that you are a child of God. Prove your salvation!” He says, “Listen, just know that this faith and this expectation that God will bring immortality in the return of Christ has some trustworthiness and this trustworthiness of this faith produces patience. That's what it produces. The trustworthiness of your faith will produce patience!

Listen to this again. When you have the faith of God is when your heart is persuaded that God will bring immortality to your human body in the return of Christ that He has conquered all your sin, that He's conquered all your death and that He will bring it forth in you. When you are persuaded with that persuasion, you can trust that when you come to the place where you must prove your sonship, patience will be a fruit in your life. That's sounds so much different than what we thought. Let's go to the temptation of Jesus. He was tempted in the desert. When He was tempted, He had faith in His heart. He had faith that He is the Son of God. Then the devil came to Him and said, “If You are a child of God, heal Yourself from this poverty that You are in.” The trustworthiness that was in the face of Jesus, brought forth patience in Christ when He said, “I am not going to prove My sonship. I am not going to try to conquer My own death here. I am not going to try and conquer the death that I am experiencing here, by My faith.” In other words Jesus did not use His faith. He didn't try to look at the good that God has promised Him and work the good to prove His sonship in that moment. He didn't do that. What He did was He had patience and He said, “The Father will vindicate Me. The Father will prove My sonship because My sonship can only be proven in Me conquering physical death and He promised me that even if I die, He will raise Me up. So there is not need in proving sonship in changing bread into stone. I don't have to prove that I am immortal by jumping off a temple and not dying and having scripture quoted towards Me and now I'm going to use this scripture and jump off the temple and prove My sonship.”

This is what the Scripture says: When you come to a place where a voice comes to you that says, “Look at your situation. Prove your sonship”, know this that as long as what your heart is persuaded of the immortality that Christ promised you and you know that you have eternal life because of the resurrection of Christ and you simply just believe that, something will happen in your heart and something will come forth in you which is called patience.

Patience is not the ability to stand at the ATM and not be angry. That is not the patience the Bible talks about there. The patience that the Bible talks about means: steadfastness, constancy, endurance; in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose (Thayer)

So what is our deliberate purpose in Christianity? Our deliberate purpose in Christianity is not to be found in works righteousness but in the righteousness of God so that we can attain to immortal human flesh on account of the doing of God in Jesus Christ. That is the end goal. That is the purpose. That is what Paul said.

Paul clearly said, "I don't want any Law. I only want Grace because this is the reason: I want to attain to the resurrection of the dead." So James said, "As long as I am believing, as long as I am in this belief, that God will vindicate me. God will prove my sonship. I don't have to prove it by myself and I'm in a situation where I see difficulty or where I see persecution or any of those kind of things come my way, I'm already happy because I know that this faith that I have has a side effect. It has an effect in me and the effect that it has on me in that situation is it makes me hard headed. It makes me difficult. I'm not going to change!"

I've see in my own life. Let's take my teaching on tithing for instance. When I preach on tithing, and I preach that Jesus is the tithing, that's all okay. But if you want to see me really preach Jesus is the tithing, if you really want to see my heart established in that, try and come against me in that teaching. Try and quote verses. Try and do any of those kind of things. You will find that patience, that ability to endure persecution is awakened in me and my head becomes harder. I become more stubborn! I'm not changing because of the trustworthiness of this faith! The trustworthiness of this faith, and the Bible says that the trying of your faith, the trustworthiness of your faith, will bring forth patience. So what he says is, "God shall bring forth immortality in our lives and whatsoever comes our way that has a voice that contradicts that, the fact that I am believing this, it is so faithful, it is so true, it is so honest that it will give me the endurance today to stand up against the biggest onslaughts that can ever be against truth and I will not be phased! I will just sit in the rest of God. That is what will happen. That is what this faith brings.

Now what will bring confusion is when we come to a place where we have the teaching that says that we must go around and we must establish the kingdom of God in the earth. We must go around and we must bring the greatest prosperity to the earth. We must manifest the kingdom of God in the earth. We must have all those kind of things and if we, as the Church, don't do it, there is something wrong with us. That is a lie! I want to tell you that faith doesn't have the trustworthiness to bring forth patience in hard times. The only thing that you can trust if you have that faith that says that you must manifest the kingdom in the earth today, you must do all those kind of things, is that you are going to look at everything and you are going to have doubt in your heart. You are going to start to scrutinize your own life. You are going to start to look at what is wrong with you and all those kind of things instead of just sitting and resting in the finished work of God's integrity towards man.

The summary for the first part is this: Count it all joy. He said to those Jews, "Man, when you see these guys persecuting you for believing this, if you see this coming, count it all joy, be already happy because the moment they start to do something, this very thing that you believe has an effect. It has a fruit and it is called patience. That patience is it brings forth steadfastness and constancy and endurance to you and you will not be swerved from your deliberate purpose." So the only way that we can handle persecution hard times is by not looking back to the Old Law and trying to prove anything. The moment you try to prove your faith, the moment you try to do that, you are not going to find patience in that time. Confusion is going to come your way and the difficult time will become very, very difficult.

James 1:

5 *If any of you lack wisdom, (Remember, Jesus was made wisdom for us.... knowing what Christ has done for us) let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

6 *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

7 *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

8 *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

I just want to point out verse 5. It says, “... *let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally* (freely), *and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*”

That verse is so powerful! It says there, “...*let him give to every men liberally* (That word, liberally, just means freely.) *and upbraideth not* (That word, upbraideth in Afrikaans is the word, verwyd, which actually means He will not take the past into account and neither will He humiliate you. That's what it means. It says that if anybody needs wisdom, if anybody needs Jesus Christ applied to your situation, ask of God and He will freely give you the answer and He will not bring the past into account. What the Jews were thinking is that they were going through hard times and they wanted to know why they were going through hard times. They were thinking that everything must manifest now and when they didn't see the full manifestation of everything, (I'm not talking just about the fruit of the Spirit. I'm talking about all that the Jews thought salvation looked like.) when they didn't see that they thought, “What are we doing wrong?” Then they prayed to God and they already had this doubt in their mind... “Oh God, what are we doing wrong? What must we do?” When they asked not in faith, meaning believing God would bring anything, but the question was already wrong. “What must We do?” The moment they do that they come to a place where they mix Law with Grace and what they are saying is that the answer that God gave them was to go back to the Law.

What he is saying here is that whenever you need wisdom from God know this: God is not going back to the old stuff! So if you are going through a difficult time financially, and you are asking God, “God, why you are going through a difficult time financially?” don't think that God is going to go back to the Old Law and is going to say, “Because you are not paying your tithe” He abraideth not and He is not going to humiliate you! He's not going to do that. He's not going back to the old thing because He wants eternal life in you. That's why He is not going to point you back to the Old Law. Then he goes on and he says, “Then ask, not wavering like the sea.” In other words what he says is that when we need wisdom from God don't come to a place where you want your answer in the Law. Well, I believe in Grace but I didn't pray enough. I didn't do this enough. I didn't speak well enough. There is something wrong with what I say all the time, or any of those things. He says, “Don't do that because you will be double minded.” Then Paul comes and tells these Jews, “Listen, guys, you are double minded. You are Law minded and Grace minded. If you are Law minded and Grace minded and you come to God I want to tell you that you are going to struggle to hear what God is saying.”

James 5:

12 Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed.

He said, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation for if he endures he shall receive the crown of life.” What is he talking about there? He says. “Blessed is the man who continues to believe in the Good News where the Lord brings forth patience so that he doesn't fall back under the Law for he shall receive immortality.” That is what that verse means. I want to tell you that you can differ from that. You can say, “I don't believe that! That cannot be the truth!” But do you know what? I already feel the patience coming to the faith that is already in my heart. I cannot change from this. There is a patience inside me that says, “You know what? As long as I live in this body on the earth, there will be temptation.

The devil will want to tempt me to try to prove my immortality. The devil will try to tempt me to prove that I am a son of God but I'm not going for that. I will not be going for that because I am not changing my belief. I'm not going to change my belief to a belief that says that a child of God will have all these things in his life and then take the Jewish definition of Law and put all of it in there. I'm not going to do that because the moment I mix Judaism with Christianity and I mix the Law with Grace, what is going to take place is I am going to be unstable in all my ways and I'm going to ask of God and a guy who asks with double mindedness cannot receive anything from God! What he will receive will not be from God. It will be from his mixed belief! It's not as if God doesn't give. It's just what you receive doesn't come from God. It comes from your warped belief.

So, "***Blessed is the man that endures temptation:*** (Blessed is the man who has the patience inside him that he won't fall back under the Law) ***for when he is tried*** (That word, tried, means when the proof comes that he is the son of God, this is the proof, this is what he shall receive), ***he shall receive the crown of life*** (The crown of life is where your body will be crowned with immortality. That is what that is all about.)

It says, ***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God*** (In other words, it says, "Let no man say that God is actually guiding me to go back to laws and rules and regulations.)

The devil tempted Jesus to prove His sonship. Let no man say God said that I must prove My sonship. It's like signs, wonders and miracles, People! You are not going to find Bertie Brits proving his sonship through signs, wonders and miracles. We have had that teaching that said that if you are a child of God, the early Church did signs wonders and miracles so we must now have signs, wonders, and miracles and if you don't have a sign, wonder, a miracle, then there is something wrong with your faith. Satan, get behind me!

I injured my shoulder and it was really painful. The other night I was in bed and I was crying tears. I had pain in my shoulder. You know, you can have this voice come to you and say to you, "You know, Bertie, it is written that God confirms His Word with signs, wonders, and miracles. So heal your shoulder so that you can know that you are busy with the right Word" Get behind me, Satan!

Does that mean that I cannot be healed? Well, I can tell you now that I feel much better today. Glory to God. And am I using that to prove anything? No, because the proof of my sonship cannot be in the healing of my shoulder. The healing of my shoulder is what the Bible calls part of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, signs, wonders, and miracles. It is just a sign of what God will do in the return of Christ and I will receive an, immortal human body and I'm not going to fall into this proof thing. So I want to say to you that unless you have received the crown of life, that means unless you have seen immortality manifest in your life, meaning you have an undying human body that already manifests in you, you will be in a place where you will hear a voice that wants to tell you to prove yourself. And the way, the only power you have to resist that is to have a heart persuaded that the only proof there is of sonship is in immortality which only God can manifest in you which He has promised and which He has shone in the resurrection and that truth, that resurrection, shall manifest in you by the doing of the Holy Spirit and not your works.

The only power, the way to patience, the way to resisting temptation is not by you resisting the devil. It's like when I say, "Get behind me, Satan!" It's not me even resisting the devil. It is the patience in me speaking. I hope you hear what I am saying. True faith has patience.

You shouldn't say, "Well, if you have true faith, be patient." Can you hear the difference? The one is you doing something and the one is the result of a belief. So when I believe, when I say that I am still mortal. I am seeing the signs of mortality. I'm seeing weakness in my body. I'm seeing these things. I'm absolutely open for signs, wonders and miracles. This body is the temple of God and I am available for the signs, wonders and miracles and for the Spirit to do whatever He wants to do in this body even if it is that this body will remain until the coming of the Lord. If Jesus wants to make my body to become four hundred years old, I'm open for anything that God wants to do in my body by His Holy Spirit. I am open for that. I'm not against that. I'm not against the gifts of the Spirit, signs, wonders and miracles. I'm available for that but I am not going to try to prove it, but I'm available for that. We see it manifest. We see the power of the Holy Spirit. We see the signs and the wonders and the miracles but we are not going to fall into proving anything by the power of the Holy Spirit. That would be the Law. That will destroy your life! It has destroyed the Church.

I don't want to point fingers, but I see people whose whole ministry is to do miracles. The other day I was looking at somebody doing a miracle and it was like on the camera, all the time showing, "See this miracle? See this miracle?" Listen, my brother, for many, many years I have believed that God can do miracles. You don't have to convince me that God can do miracles. I know that! I believe that! You don't have to try and prove that God can do a miracle. We know God can do miracles. The Church doesn't need to be persuaded that God can do a miracle. What the Church needs to know is our innocence before God that the Spirit of God will bring life to them. What they need to have is to share in the quality of God's life enter into peace and rest in the goodness of God where God will raise them from the dead and quicken their mortal body to be immortal by the doing of God That's what the Church needs. They need to hear the truth. We don't need another wave of proving God can do miracles. Please, spare us Lord of that. Are we open for miracles? Yes, but we are not going to use it to prove anything.

I'm only half way through my message but I want to end off by saying that the moment you are tempted by the devil, this is what happens: The devil comes and he wants to scrutinize what you believe and then he wants proof of what you believe. The moment he wants that and your desire for proof, you also have a desire for proof. I want to say that to you. All of us have that desire inside us. We would want to see. I would want to see a body that is immortal. I've got a longing in me. I have desire in me but once that desire that is in me mixes up with this thing that the devil says and I give in to the temptation, do you know what happens then? The Bible says, "Then sin comes forth." That simply means that we are not tempted to go and drink and get drunk. We are tempted to prove ourselves and once we are tempted and we fall into the thing of proving ourselves, we fall into the Law, then our flesh brings forth sins. So we are not tempted to go and sleep around. We are not tempted to lie. We're not tempted to cheat. We are not tempted to do all those things. That is not what we are tempted with. That is the fruit, the manifestation of you who have already having fallen for this temptation and that are now under the power of sin and death bringing forth fruit in you.

So if we resist sin, how do we resist sin? How do we resist temptation? We resist temptation by simply believing that Christ promised us immortality and even if we don't see anything in this life He has promised us that He shall bring it forth even if we have died and nothing in this world can be a proof of our sonship. The moment we believe that simple truth we find that truth bring forth patience. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Self-control and patience, longsuffering, it is something that will happen to you the moment your heart is persuaded that Christ, by His Spirit, shall make your physical body immortal in the return of Christ. That is what I preached about the past two Sundays. The one was about the perfect Christian inside your imperfection: "How to be the Perfect Christian". The second one was, "Naked and Unashamed". The moment you can say, "I am naked. I am not clothed with immortality. I don't see immortality in my life but I have the promise of immortality and if I see the signs of mortality, I'm not phased by that. I'm not going to try to prove my life inside mortality because He has promised me. The fruit of that in your life is patience, endurance, because faith in that is trustworthy. Trustworthiness of this faith will produce patience in your life when you will be able to resist the voice that comes to you in that difficult time.

You might be saying, "I've been struggling with this in my life. I've been struggling with that in my life. Why am I not having the victory over that in my life?" Those will be the voices. I tell you that inside that as you see Christ's promise of immortality for your body, and that this body cannot express, right now, the fullness of your immortality, do you know what? You will just find a patience. You will find love, joy, peace, in that time. You will also find the fruit of the Spirit, signs, wonders and miracles take place in your life not as a proof but as a fruit of not trying to prove. I hope you understand what I am saying. You need to listen to this many times. As the Lord has spoken to me about this, He has revealed this to me over the years, my heart has come to believe that everything is not about going to heaven. Everything is about the resurrection from the dead. That is what it is all about.

James 1:

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

It clearly says there, ***Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness..*** That means that if you tamper with the Law, you are naughty. You are a naughty child if you tamper with the Law! So he comes here and he says, "Lay aside all filthiness..." Filthiness is to try and prove your sonship. Filthiness is trying to go back to Judaism. Filthiness is to say, "God is tempting me to show my sonship. God is tempting me to mix in Law with Grace. He says that is filthy and that is naughty! He says, "Lay that down!" And then he says, ***and receive with meekness the engrafted word,*** (the message of our immortality) ***which is able to save your soul.*** The saving of the soul can talk about preserve your mind, will and emotion which is true but the true context there is that this word will preserve your life, that you will not enter eternal death but that your life will be preserved eternally. Your emotions shall be saved and your life shall be eternally preserved by receiving the Word of God.

Then it says to go on and be doers of the Word and not hearers only. The context here is a doer of the Word means somebody who is a person where this message of God's grace lives and not a doer of the Law. If you are a doer of the Word, you rest! If you are a doer of Moses, you work! Doers of the Word are those who simply believe that their righteousness is the righteousness of God. A doer of the Word is somebody who is not naughty, who looks into the perfect law of liberty, see their freedom and don't forget what kind of man they are.

