

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

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*PODs in Review:*

**1<sup>st</sup> POD:** There are ups and downs in everyone's spiritual life (Matthew 17:1-23).

- ❖ The Lord went from the heights of Mt. Hermon where He experienced some of the greatest fellowship in His life on earth.

God the Father encouraged Him when He said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him."

He experienced His eternal glory being manifested by the Father.

Moses and Elijah encouraged Him in their interim bodies that reflected the glory of God.

- ❖ He then descended into the valley of disappointment where His students failed to trust Him and utilize the power that was available to them to cast out a demon.
- ❖ Their faith was impoverished.
- ❖ They failed to pray for God to remove the demon from the boy.
- ❖ That was a mere mountain that would have been removed if they prayed with faith.
- ❖ They also became embroiled in a theological debate with the scribes.

This was discouraging to the Lord yet He never broke fellowship; He continued forward in fulfilling the Father's will for His life.

**2<sup>nd</sup> POD (New):** No matter how disappointed or discouraged we may become with people or circumstances, we must follow the example of Christ.

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter" of the unique spiritual life. **Hebrews 12:2**

**Maintain status-quo fellowship with Him** (*the mechanics of the bottom circle*).

- ❖ Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
- ❖ Suppressing not the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19)
- ❖ Grieving not God the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
- ❖ That is the only way to maintain fellowship with our Father in heaven – it's all a walk by faith.

It is God who is able to keep us from falling through the supernatural means available by the MENTORSHIP of GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT which He provided in grace at faith alone in Christ alone.

No matter how discouraged we become with people or circumstances, we must maintain fellowship status-quo and press on in doing what God wants us to do until we reach the finish line of life.

3<sup>rd</sup> POD: The Lord does not take pleasure in His students (Christians) getting involved in doctrinal disputes or theological debates (Mark 9:14-16, 19).

4<sup>th</sup> POD: The believer is incapable of doing what he should unless he uses God's power to do it (Mark 6:7, 13 cf. Mark 9:18).

5<sup>th</sup> POD: Power in the spiritual life is directly related to our walk of faith (Rom. 15:13; Eph. 3:16).

**Romans 15:13** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- By the **power** of the Holy Spirit - ἐν δυνάμει πνεύματος ἁγίου
- **δύναμις** – DUNAMIS – “*might, strength, or power*”
- That power belongs to the Holy Spirit!
- As long as we stay properly adjusted to the Spirit of God who indwells us that power will be there to execute the UNIQUE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

**Ephesians 3:16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with **power** [δύναμις]. . .

. . . through His Spirit in the inner man. – The means by which we are strengthened

διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος αὐτοῦ - διὰ plus πνεῦμα indicates we are equipped with power by means of God the Holy Spirit.

That power is provided from within by the Spirit of God who indwells us and that is why we must learn to walk by the Spirit.

Apart from using God's power we fail!

*The perfection of that power - -*

**2 Corinthians 12:9** And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you (Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit), for **power** is **perfected** [τελέω – TELEO – *being brought to completion or maturity*) in **weakness.**” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the **power** of Christ may dwell [take up quarters] in me.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** (corrected translation) And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for **power** is *being brought to completion by means of weakness.*” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the **power** of Christ may *take up quarters* in me.

6<sup>th</sup> POD: Our ability is directly related to our faith, trust, or dependence (Gal. 5:16; 2 Cor. 5:7).

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight—

**We are called to a life of reliance upon the Spirit of God to live our lives.**

When the believer relies upon God the Holy Spirit, He will be led by the Spirit of God!

7<sup>th</sup> POD: Answered prayer strengthens the believer's faith (Mark 9:24-27 cf. Luke 9:43).

8<sup>th</sup> POD: A little faith [*mustard seed*] in the throne of grace is all one needs to set the Lord in motion to accomplish great things (**Matt. 17:20; James 1:6-7**).

9<sup>th</sup> POD: That little faith must be a deep seated trust in the Lord to act on behalf of your request.

- It's not about the amount of faith one has, but the quality of it and who that faith is placed in.
- All things are possible with God, and when the believer trusts in God all things are possible for him.

10<sup>th</sup> POD: Success in the spiritual life hinges on the quality of your faith . . .

. . . on the quality of that trust; on your life of reliance.

. . . upon the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit & the infallible Word of God.

**John 4:24** ". . . those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth."



**Matthew 17:24** When they came to Capernaum [*Lord & Disciples*], those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter.

- The tax collectors were sent by the religious leaders in an attempt to trap the Lord.
- In this case they try to attack through Peter – and so the religious leaders send the tax collectors.

“Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?”

- The two-drachma tax is was a non-compulsory temple tax.
- Used to pay those who worked in the temple

<sup>25</sup> He said, “Yes.”

- Peter said “yes” because he does not want the Lord to get into trouble.
- Peter now has to walk back to his house and tell the Lord what he said.

And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?”

- This is a wonderful testament to the deity of Christ.

- Jesus Christ knew exactly what those who collect taxes asked Peter.
- Jesus Christ knew they came to Peter and asked, “Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma tax?”
- Jesus Christ knew that Peter said, “Yes.”
- Jesus Christ is omniscient and He knows everything we say, too.
- Jesus Christ is so gentle with Peter!
- Peter is worried and doesn't know what to say to the Lord so the Lord spoke to him first.

“What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?”

It is important to understand this in light of the ancient world.

In the ancient world the children of kings did not pay taxes, they benefitted from them.

<sup>26</sup> When Peter said, “From strangers,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are exempt.”

- The two drachma tax was for the temple.

*Note the following passages -*

**Luke 2:48-49** When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

**John 2:15-16** And He made a scourge of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; <sup>16</sup> and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business."

- Whose house did Jesus say the temple was? His Father's!
- If sons are exempt, then Jesus is exempt from the 2 drachma tax because He is the Son of God.

**PROBLEM:** If He directly pays the tax, then the religious leaders can claim that He is not the Son of God – a trap the religious leaders have plotted for months.

Here is the sovereign omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence of the Lord Jesus Christ in action.

<sup>27</sup> “However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook. . .

- Remember that Peter's profession was fisherman.
- ❖ People were to pay taxes from their trade; from what they earned.

. . . and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel.

- ❖ A shekel is enough for Peter to pay his tax, yet indirectly pay the Teacher's tax.

Take that and give it to them for you and Me.”

POD: There are an infinite number of ways the Lord can provide for the believer or church.

❖ God's ability to provide is INFINITE.

POD: It is not our job to reason how God can provide, but simply trust Him to provide.

The believer's life must be organized around the intake of the Word of God.

To reason how God can and then trust that He will is an impoverished faith.

Impoverished Faith runs on Human Viewpoint!

Do not allow your human viewpoint & impoverished faith to short change the Lord's provision.

We never know how God will provide but His ways are infinite - beyond what we can imagine or think; therefore, we simply have to trust with that mustard seed of quality faith.

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*