



Figure 3.4: *A man with faith was healed in Lystra. He was crippled from the womb, but God's power caused him to leap to his feet.*

This was an example of faith coming by hearing. This man in Lystra had not walked a day in his entire life. He heard a sermon from Paul on God's word. All of a sudden, the man from Lystra leapt to his feet. He was healed based on his faith in God's word. This shows the great healing power of our Lord Yeshua.

Surely there was substantial faith in this man. This man may have had thoughts inside his mind of not only walking but leaping, based on the goodness of God. That was what manifested. This demonstrated the power and importance of our thought life.

It pays to have great faith. Yeshua rewarded His believers according to their faith. Let us have high levels of faith, believing in God's goodness and mercy. However, let us keep in mind what Yeshua said, that it took faith but the size of a mustard seed to move mountains.

Our Lord Yeshua values great faith. That is at least one reason for us to believe highly, even if life is not ideal. Let us keep in mind that sometimes God blesses us differently than what we originally imagined. Sometimes we set our sights too low.

We may be thinking of an apartment, and God envisions a mansion. Therefore, if God gives us something different than what we had in mind, let us be patient. God's ways are much higher, and He often has much better plans for us than we initially conceived.

We may not be where we want to be yet. We may not have everything we desire yet. However, if we place our sight on what matters most, we will not be disappointed. Spoiler alert: what matters most is God and our Lord Yeshua.

“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them .”

Mark 11:23-24 NKJV

CHAPTER 4

TEMPERING THE BURN



*So do not throw away your
confidence; it will be richly
rewarded.*

— HEBREWS 10:35 NIV

Chapter 4

Tempering the Burn



4.1 Doubt

Let us treat doubt like an enemy. Our ships run on faith, which lifts us and propels us in a storm. Faith carries us swiftly on the high seas with delight and poise. Faith moves us from port to port with confidence and grace, even in a fierce tempest.

Doubt could puncture a hole in the bottom of our ships and cause water to enter. Doubt could question our ability to make it to our paradise destination. Let us despise doubt. Doubt is an evil entity, aimed to hinder us from our goals and desires. Doubt is not from God, meaning doubt comes from the devil.

The devil is the one who does not want us to achieve our dreams. The devil is the one who does not want us to succeed or to do good things in our lives. The devil wants us to doubt, and the devil is our enemy. Therefore, doubt is also our enemy.

Doubt is related to double-mindedness, as stated in James 1:6-8. Double-mindedness indicates incomplete devotion to God. We can be double-minded if there is something in our hearts taking God's rightful place.

This could be money, lust, food, etc. If God is not number one in our hearts, then we as humans can tend towards covetousness and idolatry, which causes double-mindedness and doubt. God wants us to turn to Him with our *whole* hearts (e.g., Mark 12:29-31).

Idolatry and covetousness are inordinate desire. Inordinate desire is when we want something more than we should, e.g., more than God. The thing itself may not be inherently bad. However, we may sin and get led down a wrong path due to our passions. An example could be wanting cookies so much that we eat cookies before dinner and end up ruining our dinner.

Imagine having a thick, juicy flavorful, succulent piece of filet mignon waiting for dinner. However, right before dinner time, we fill our stomachs with chocolate chip cookies. It may not matter how good the filet mignon tasted if we filled up on cookies beforehand. God is much better than filet mignon.

For those who do not like steak or do not eat meat, imagine a marvelous, flavorful dish of chickpeas, quinoa, and tofu. The dish was cooked and crafted with delicious spices and herbs. However, right before dinner, we fill our stomachs with non-dairy milk and cookies ice cream.

We as humans were created to worship God and God alone. Yeshua told us that we can only serve one master (e.g., Matthew 6:24). If something superficially appealing starts creeping into our hearts, it could take God's rightful place. This could harm our relationship with God. The damage in the connection with God could lead us to doubt God and His word.

If faith is believing that God's word is true, doubt could be seen as believing or thinking that God's word is *not* true. Sometimes, doubt can seep in when we do not receive what we prayed for quickly or in the way that we originally desired. Let us avoid this sort of thinking vigorously.

Doubt could indicate the presence of an idol. Doubt is like letting a leak into our ship. To stay afloat, let us keep doubt out. Let us keep our hearts focused on God.

God is gracious towards us. God knows our frame, that we are dust (Psalm 103:14). Therefore, He bears with us in our weakness. God shows grace for our failings (e.g., James 4:6).

If we pray for something, and God does not bring it to pass, let us not be discouraged. If God does not bless us with what we specifically requested, it is because God has a better plan that we will enjoy and appreciate even more than what we originally asked for. If there is an apparent delay, God may simply be preparing us for what we asked for.

God is our good Father. No one loves us more than God. No one can bless us more than God can. No one will look out for our interests and guide us better than God.

Another aspect of double-mindedness is valuing this world more than the one to come, God's kingdom. Let us keep our sights on God's kingdom. What God has in store for His saints will be much better than anything we would find in this world (e.g., see Isaiah 64:3-4). Let us treat this world as it is: fleeting, transient, temporary.

This world is passing by. Let us divest from this world. The world to come is perfect. God's kingdom has infinite resources, infinite pleasures, and lasts for all eternity. His kingdom has perfect peace, wholeness, eternal joy and bliss. This world...does not have those things.

Let us not worry. God has promised in multiple scriptures that He will help us (e.g., Psalm 46:1, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Chronicles 16:9). Doubt, fear, and worry are all related. They stem from evil sources and can diminish our faith. Let us guard our hearts against these evils.

Worry can enter our minds due to past negative events and occurrences. Worry can eat away at our confidence, like a beetle eating away at beautiful harvest crop plants. Worry is the opposite of trusting in God. We should treat doubt like an enemy, but let us also be watchful for worry.

4.2 Winning Against Worry

Our thoughts can tend towards powerful, good events. Meditating on God's word helps with such thinking. However, we as humans also have the potential and ability to think of negative events. Worrying involves thinking of negative events. That is at least one reason to pray for God to purify our hearts.

When we worry, we may end up believing for what we do not want rather than what we desire. Worry works against faith. God desires our faith. The devil wants us to worry. Our enemy Satan wants us to believe for negative outcomes. Satan wants to bring evil and negativity into our lives.

God wants us to believe in Him and for positive outcomes. God desires for us to be still and to rest in His faithfulness. We can simply wait on God to bring about justice and positive change. This is a posture of faith.

Are we thinking for God to come through on His word? Are we believing that what God said will come to pass? Let us think

about what we are thinking about. Although clearly superior, believing for good rather than evil may be easier said than done. However, there are strategies to deal with worry:

† Praise

† Prayer

† Reading God's word aloud

4.2.1 Praise

I heard it once said that it is difficult to worry and to praise God at the same time. We can praise God by singing worship songs. Some of us may even be skilled enough to praise God through dance or art.

We can praise God through multiple means, even including noting our gratitude to God using a gratitude journal. Praise is a way to communicate with God in a manner that also lifts us up. Prayer reflects another important means of communication with God.

It is difficult to worry and to praise God at the same time.

4.2.2 Prayer

Prayer helps mitigate worry. Yeshua often prayed to God, which gives us a good example. God is our heavenly Father. He wants us to talk with Him. Yeshua often spent time alone and prayed. God is everywhere; we cannot flee from His presence.

Hence, solitude may be more about leaving the proximity of others, rather than being alone. Times of solitude have a special place. When we are away from other humans, it helps to eliminate distractions. This enhances our ability to focus on God and to speak with Him more clearly, unhindered.

When we pray to God, we can speak genuinely. God knows everything and desires for us to bare our hearts truthfully. That does not mean that we should complain and grumble to God. Since He already knows everything, He knows the bad as well as the good.

When we complain, it brings up negativity. Complaining involves telling God information concerning undesirable circumstances that He already knew would happen. Moreover, He knew thousands of years in advance what would happen. Therefore, instead of grumbling, we can enter His courts with thanksgiving and praise (e.g., Psalm 100:4).

We can still make our requests known to God. However, we can appreciate the good, even in unpleasant circumstances. We can choose to focus on the positive rather than the negative. This can help us communicate with God without complaining. Complaining may not find favor with God anyway (e.g., Numbers 11:1-3, Philippians 2:14).

Something that could help us in not complaining could be to focus on gratitude. For example, we could meditate on God's goodness. We could verbally express our thanks to God for various blessings and comforts He has brought into our lives. We could review our whole lives and think about all the many ways in which God was good to us.

We could also redirect our attention back to the Bible and other sources of God's word. We could meditate on what God told us and promised us. We could also read God's word aloud.

4.2.3 Reading God's Word Aloud

Reading God's word aloud brings us back to what is most important for us. God's word is our life (Deuteronomy 32:47). Reading God's word aloud strengthens our faith. This strengthens our prayers and fellowship with God. It also puts our problems in perspective.

When we have our minds set on God, we come to realize that God is much greater than anything we may face. Any problem we could think of is small to God. God promises to deliver His saints from all our troubles (Psalm 34:19).

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 34:19 NKJV

Furthermore, God helps us and soothes us in our anxieties. Yeshua relieves us from fear and worry. This occurs uniquely for each saint, although we could have common thematic elements. Over time, Yeshua causes us to trust Him deeply.

Any problem is small to God.

4.3 Trust

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

Psalm 118:8 NKJV

In the 1990s, there was a rapper, Tupac Shakur (2Pac), who rose to fame. 2Pac created hit songs and acted in acclaimed films. While 2Pac was nearing the height of his fame and prominence in the music industry, he simultaneously dealt with persecution and legal challenges. In the midst of his troubles, perpetrators robbed 2Pac and shot him 5 times outside a recording studio, causing critical injuries.

2Pac miraculously survived the shooting, but he changed his perspective dramatically. He thought that the attempt on his life involved people that he formerly trusted and considered friends. During one particular interview, 2Pac famously and emphatically repeated, “Trust NOBODY!”

2Pac’s warnings echo statements in the Bible. The Bible states in multiple times and in multiple ways that we as humans should only trust God. For example, in Micah 7, God warned us not to trust our neighbors, our friends, or even our spouses.

Do not trust in a friend; do not put your confidence in a companion; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your bosom.

Micah 7:5 NKJV

The book of Jeremiah relates that a curse accompanies those who trust other humans. Jeremiah urged us to trust God instead. The Bible also promises a blessing for those who trust God.

Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited.

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Jeremiah 17: 5-9 NKJV

All humans have a fallen nature as a result of sin. God is the only one who is good. We may like other humans and desire to relate with them well. However, God is the only one that we should fully trust.

Trust is closely related to faith. Faith is the opposite of fear. Trust is the opposite of worry. Therefore, if we desire to be free from fear and worry, let us have faith and trust in God and our Lord Yeshua, the Messiah.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:3 NKJV

God sometimes waits until the last minute or the last moment to turn things around for the better. This is not malicious on God's part. After all, there is no darkness in God (1 John 1:5).

However, God tests our hearts. God examines us to see if we trust Him. God already knows what will happen, but He reveals the conditions of our hearts and where we have room for improvement.

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Proverbs 17:3 NIV

God evaluates to see if we will continue in belief, even when things do not look good. God wants for us to be those that do not give up. Grit and determination are manifestations of faith. The Bible encourages us to persevere.

CHAPTER 5

SUSTAINING THE HEAT



*You will tread on the lion and the
cobra; you will trample the great
lion and the serpent.*

— PSALM 91:3 NIV

Chapter 5

Sustaining the Heat



5.1 Persistent Faith

Yeshua related a parable highlighting the importance of perseverance. He told a story of a widow who persisted with an apparently heartless and godless judge in getting him to grant her justice (Luke 18:1-7). Yeshua made the analogy that even we, as sinful humans, could relent to persistence.

God is way more compassionate, understanding, and kind than us or the heartless judge in the parable. Therefore, if we are petitioning God, let us rest assured that He will provide for us. God will certainly see that we receive justice and what we need.

Life has challenges. Challenges have the potential to diminish our faith or to strengthen our faith, depending upon our perspective. We can persevere in the face of challenges, if we know that we are on the right track. We can have greater assurance and conviction if we know that we have sure footing, that we are on good ground.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.

Hebrews 10:35-36 NIV

There is no better ground or more sure footing than God's word. Let us align ourselves with God's word. If we know that what we

are believing for has been commanded by God, that can give us the faith to persist despite hardships, delays, and opposition.

This can cause us to pray more boldly. Knowing God's word helps us a lot in praying and having an appropriate perspective. This bolsters faith and helps us in navigating life. For example, if we know that God told us to help those that are less fortunate (e.g., Luke 14:13-14), we can continue to push for giving alms and spreading resources to the poor despite opposition from the workers of iniquity.

“But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

2 Chronicles 15:7 NIV

These statements must be tempered with the reality of God's sovereignty. It is not everything that we want that God gives us. Like any good parent, He weighs our desires with respect to what is best for us. What God wants outweighs everything else. He knows what is best for everyone, and He has our best interests at heart.

We also have the potential to be deceived by our enemy Satan, even when we are trying to do good. Sometimes what we think is good and right may not be correct. It is good to have faith, but let us also recognize that God's will is sovereign.

Persist despite hardships, delays, and opposition.

The apostle John encouraged us to pray as according to God's will (1 John 5:14). By continually refreshing our minds with God's

word, we improve our sense of God's will. This would likely help us set our sights on God and His face. Seeking God and fixing our hearts on His word improves our discernment and vision for His glory.

5.2 Aim to Hit the Mark

David spent his childhood studying God's word and memorizing it. David had God's word constantly by his side (Psalm 16:8). David was humble in his heart and relied upon God to strengthen and to embolden him.

I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8 NKJV

I heard the story of David as a child. My grandma gathered my siblings and I around her and read it to us as children. I still remember the image of David striking Goliath and accomplishing a stunning victory from the children's Bible book that grandma read to us.

A detail I did not notice until I grew older was that David proactively charged to the battle line to meet the giant Goliath. When Goliath came, David called out his battle plan, prophesying his victory like a young Muhammad Ali. David was fearless and confident in God, knowing that he was fighting a righteous battle and that his beloved and holy Lord would protect him.

David took 5 stones but only needed one, striking Goliath dead on with the first stone. Just like David had called out, he took Goliath's sword and defeated the giant with his own weapon.

David was a shining beacon of faith, unwavering in resolve and courageous in battle.

God wants us to be like David, knowing that the Lord has our backs. God will be there to support us. With God as a given, we can set our sights on great goals as opposed to small ones. What we believe, and what we think are important. Let us think and believe for grand accomplishments.

Elisha was a prophet and protégé of Elijah. Elisha lived a life of service, performing miracles and healing the sick. When Elisha was near passing away, he called the king of Israel, Joash. Elisha had a spiritual commandment for Joash, a prophecy from the Lord. Elisha charged Joash, the king of Israel, to strike the ground in a symbolic way.

Then he said, “Take the arrows”; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground”; so he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times.”

2 Kings 13:18-19 NKJV

Elisha admonished Joash for not having a grand enough aim. The Syrians were oppressing Israel as enemies. Joash had an opportunity to free the Israelites from their oppression and to destroy their enemies completely. Elisha had desired for Joash to strike the ground more times. Let us learn from this example and think big when it comes to faith and our requests.

5.3 Faith Makes the World Go Around

There are many who place money on a pedestal. The hip hop group Wu-Tang famously stated, “Cash rules everything around me.” A famous phrase was “Money makes the world go around.” The phrase was popularized and attributed to multiple different people.

However, in God’s kingdom, faith reigns supreme. Faith can move Heaven and earth (e.g., Joshua 10:12-14). Faith can turn apparently hopeless situations around for good. God loves us that much.

When we have faith and pray, God goes to work. God is an unstoppable force. No one can stand against God. An old adage I enjoyed was, “When man works, man works. When man prays, God works.” Let us not trust our own efforts but look to the Lord, the unstoppable force.

Moreover, what we value in this world (e.g., money, houses, possessions) will be different in God’s kingdom. I doubt the US dollar will matter much in Yeshua’s kingdom. The streets of God’s kingdom will be paved with gold. Precious stones and gems will adorn the walls.

Even in this phase of existence and this world, Solomon became so wealthy via God’s wisdom, that he made silver as common as stones (e.g., 1 Kings 10:27). Yeshua told us that where our treasure lies, our hearts will be also (Matthew 6:21). Yeshua implied that the money of this world was not true

Continually refresh our minds with God’s word.

riches (e.g., Luke 16:11). He also told us to have our hearts set on His kingdom and not this passing, fleeting world.

Let us consider what is more valuable than money: God, God's word, love, faith, joy, truth, humility, righteousness, justice, wisdom, loyalty, faithfulness, mercy, relationships, family, good work, community, rapport, fellowship, good health, kindness, compassion, knowledge, service, altruism, encouragement, alms, rest, peace.

CHAPTER 6

SHIMMERING BEAM



“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

— JOHN 5:24 NKJV

Chapter 6

Shimmering Beam



6.1 Faith for Forgiveness

There was a woman referred to in Luke 7. She was termed a sinner. There was a connotation that she was a woman of loose living. She came and poured expensive perfume upon our Lord Yeshua and wiped his feet with her hair. Yeshua told her that her faith had saved her.

She acknowledged that she had done wrong. However, she hoped and believed that God was so good and loving, that He would forgive her for what she did and still accept her. Yeshua made it abundantly clear that He forgave her, accepted her, loved her, and welcomed her back to Him as Lord and Savior.

Yeshua stated that tax collectors and prostitutes were entering God's kingdom ahead of the Pharisees (Matthew 21:31), who behaved in a self-righteous manner. God emphasized the importance of repentance and humility. Even in the Old Testament, God stated that He valued mercy (e.g., Hosea 6:6, recited by Yeshua in Matthew 9:13). Even multiple Pharisees came to believe in Yeshua the Messiah, e.g., Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

It is important to note that the object of our faith is our Lord and Savior, Yeshua, who is God Himself in the flesh. Yeshua is the image of the invisible God. The object of our faith is not we ourselves or anything that we have done. We believe that we are saved because of what Yeshua did, not because of what we did.

If we tried to stand based on our works, we would crumple to the ground.

However, Yeshua rendered an inedible work that will not fade. Yeshua's blood has the power to wipe away all of our sins. His blood is what cleanses and restores us and gives us hope for our futures. Because He had passion for us, we can live. Those who believe in Yeshua and His finished work on the cross are those who enter Paradise.

I confessed that when I believed in the Lord and began to adhere to His commands, there were multiple times when I grew prideful. I forgot how sinful I had been. I began to think that I deserved to be in Heaven and that the good I did justified me.

If we tried to stand based on our works, we would crumple to the ground.

I was grateful for Yeshua setting me straight and causing me to realize that He was the one who justified me. His atoning work on the cross redeemed me. His mercy and forgiveness saved me, not anything that I had done.

God kindly revealed to me the secret of how good He is. He welcomed me back into His fold and granted me the gift of learning that He created me to be His child, along with Yeshua. Yeshua's redemptive work brought hope to my fallen life, for which I am eternally grateful.

6.2 Fathered by God

An important part of faith is recognizing God's character. Due to sin in the world, some of us may have a distorted image of God and who He is. God is our heavenly Father.

Some of us may have dealt with the pain of having a poor relationship with our earthly fathers. Maybe our earthly fathers were not around. Maybe our earthly fathers were around, but they did not do right by us.

God saw every basketball shot we ever made. God was cheering us on and rooting for us to make the shot. God was there when we thought that we were going to get love from the world and were disappointed. God had true love waiting for us, if we would only turn to Him. No one is going to love us better than the one who made us.

God was there every time we were not sure if we were going to make it through the challenge. God created every body part we have, every single cell, every single molecule. God literally loves every bit of us and want us to be with Him in Paradise for all eternity.

When we were turning away from Him and taking actions that we knew we should not take, God was not condemning us. He was waiting for us to turn back to Him, like the prodigal son (Luke 15:20). God had His arms open and ready to receive us, provided we were willing to turn away from darkness to His light.

In turning away from worthless acts of sin, God grants us a new life. He blesses us with purpose and a new destiny in His kingdom. He washes us clean, turns us around, and gets us fit and prepared

to serve Him. God has great things in store for those who believe in Him and trust in His mercy.

The Lord Yeshua does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called. We may not have the tools and supplies without God, but God abundantly supplies us to do His work. Yeshua is the author and perfecter of our faith. Yeshua will equip and prepare us to do His work, to be His witnesses. Yeshua did not choose the scribes, the Pharisees, or the teachers of the law to be His apostles.

Yeshua wanted those who realized they needed God. Yeshua called those who were willing to repent and to turn to Him in faith. Yeshua chose those who were less esteemed in society to be His apostles, e.g., unlearned and uneducated fishermen, a tax collector.

Tax collectors were widely hated in their time and culture. Yeshua spent time not only with tax collectors but also even prostitutes. Yeshua showed His love, grace, and mercy for the despised and reviled among mankind. Those lowly people were willing to admit that they did wrong and needed help, that they needed a Savior.

6.3 Altar Call

Faith is about taking God at His word. Let us take God at His word in terms of repentance. God wants us to be with Him in Paradise for all eternity. God is ready to forgive us (Nehemiah 9:17 ESV).

God does not even desire that wicked people die (e.g., Ezekiel 33:11). In Isaiah 55, we learn that God is merciful and will pardon

us abundantly (Isaiah 55:7). A word I really enjoyed, I found in the Shepherd of Hermas:

*For God is not as men, mindful of the injuries He has received; but He forgets injuries, and has compassion on His creatures*¹.

In these words, God conveys a nature that is impervious to offense. God reveals the beauty and power of His grace towards us. I perceived that God simply desires for us to love Him and to love our neighbors.

I would like to extend an invitation to those who have not already committed to Yeshua. I am petitioning for you to do life with our Lord and Creator, who loves you. This is a special opportunity to have our loving Father join you and to make your life better. He will help you and cause you to live more abundantly than you could ever dream of or aspire to.

Those who are interested in joining Yeshua's kingdom of light may not know what to do or what to say. God desires truth in our inmost beings (Psalm 51:6). He wants us to be honest, open, and authentic with Him. He already knows everything anyway.

God does not even desire that wicked people die.

You could simply confess that you did not get life right all the time, and that you are willing to turn to God and to make Yeshua the Lord of your life. You do not even have to use those specific

¹ *The Shepherd of Hermas*, Mandate 4.3.6, trans. J. B. Lightfoot, in *The Apostolic Fathers*, accessed May 17, 2026, <https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/shepherd-lightfoot.html>

words. However, an example of a simple prayer could be something along the lines of:

“Dear God, I know I messed up in my life. I confess to you my sins. I would like you to help me and to save me from destruction in Yeshua’s Name.”

Provided you repent and turn to the Lord Yeshua, He will enter your heart and help you. There may not necessarily be fireworks when you give your life to the Lord Yeshua. There were not fireworks when I first turned to the Lord. Fireworks came later for me, but it may be different for different people.

However, it is important to note that Satan and his kingdom do not want people turning to God. Therefore, Satan will very likely try to attack you and try to discourage you from getting to God. This was not stated to cause fear but to warn you. Hold fast to God and to our Lord Yeshua no matter what, because there is *no turning back*. There are only two ways about it, either Heaven or hell.

However, the key is repentance. Let us confess our sins to the Lord. He is gracious and merciful to forgive us (1 John 1:9). Let us soldier onward, even if we encounter struggles.

Satan and his kingdom do not want people turning to God.

God blessed me to realize that He orders my steps. Therefore, even when things do not go the way that I want them to, my life and times are in His hands. The setbacks, delays, and potential disappointments are all accounted

for in His grand plans to make me better and to bring me near to Him.

Yeshua is ready, willing, and able to help us. We can always pray to Him and call out to Him for help. We may not know what to do in crisis situations, but God always knows what to do. There are also important tasks that we can do for our spiritual walk. I was told as a young believer about three important Christian spiritual disciplines:

1. **Pray to God every day.** God loves us and wants to hear from us. We can speak with Him about *anything*. We can lay our requests before Him. He wants to help us and to ensure that we make it through our journey and become like Him.
2. **Read God's word every day.** When we read God's word, we learn what is on God's heart. Reading God's word helps us to transform and to change away from our sinful behaviors and to become more like Yeshua. God's word has knowledge and wisdom that is critical for our daily lives. God's word has eternal benefits.
3. **Have fellowship with other believers regularly.** Meeting with other believers strengthens us and encourages us. We can learn from each other and benefit from community. However, let us be wary that not everyone who says that they are a Christian is actually a Christian.

Doing these spiritual disciplines helped me immensely in my walk with the Lord Yeshua. Let us pace ourselves, in order to avoid feeling overwhelmed. With Yeshua, we will have all of eter-

nity. Yeshua cautioned us to take things one day at a time (e.g., Matthew 6:34).

CHAPTER 7

RADIANT BLAZE



*The Lord also will roar from Zion,
and utter His voice from
Jerusalem; the heavens and earth
will shake...*

— JOEL 3:16 NKJV

Chapter 7

Radiant Blaze



7.1 Fiery Providence

Let us believe that God will take care of us no matter what. God is that good. He will provide for us and deliver us from every trouble (Psalm 34:19). No matter what difficulties we face or challenges arise, God will be with us.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:32 NKJV

Yeshua is the best that life has to offer. Faith is believing in Yeshua. Faith honors God. Faith pleases God. Believing that God is good and that He will keep His word and fulfill His word lies at the heart of faith.

When the Israelites faced circumstances that seemed impossible and were ready to quit, Moses had faith to stand up and to believe in God and His providence. Moses told the Israelites to remember how good God had been to them. Moses encouraged the Israelites that God could do anything and save them even from their situation that looked insurmountable.

7.2 Faith That Grows

Although we may not start out with giant-killing faith, we do not need to begin at that level. Faith grows over time. Some of us

may have mustard seed faith that blooms and blossoms until we are moving mountains with our speech, like Elizabeth. Some of us could get healed from long-term illnesses, like the woman with the issue of blood.

Paul reminded us in Romans 10:17 the importance of hearing God's word. Speaking God's word aloud is one way for us to strengthen and to increase our faith. This certainly worked for the man of Lystra who was born a cripple and literally leapt with faith to his healing.

The object of our faith is God Himself, not us or our abilities. When we pray, let us keep God as the object of our faith. Let us keep our sights on God. God can heal us. He can restore us. He can make a way through apparently hopeless situations.

God resurrected the dead. He gave sight to the blind. He made the lame walk. God has boundless power. Paul reminded us in 1 Corinthians 2:5 to have our faith in God's power and not human wisdom.

God anoints His saints with the seal of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is powerful and endows God's servants with amazing abilities. The Holy Spirit comes from faith and obedience to God and His word.

7.3 Yeshua At The Center

Let us humbly remember to keep our Lord Yeshua at the center of our lives. Without Yeshua, we can do nothing. With Yeshua, nothing is impossible. Yeshua helps us to obey God.

If we believe in God and His Son Yeshua, Yeshua will work in us to make us like Him. Let us be patient for this work to be done. God will bring good things into our lives. Waiting on the Lord is an important component of this process.

Sometimes, we may not understand what God is doing in our lives. However, let us trust Him. Trust and faith in the Lord defeat fear and worry. We as humans may have gotten it wrong in the past, trusting humans (including ourselves) instead of God. God is the only one who is trustworthy. Trusting God and having faith in Him helps us to defeat our enemies of worry and doubt.

Yeshua is the best that life has to offer.

God often works according to our levels of faith. Therefore, let us believe at high levels. Let us not shortchange our victory and the great things God wants to do in our lives. Let us be like the Gentile woman who wanted her daughter healed.

Let us not take “no” for an answer when God has assured us that we are doing His will. God is full of goodness and wants us to live abundantly. However, let us keep in mind that we should strive for God’s will above all else (e.g., Luke 22:42).

7.4 Reverential Submission

Let us temper our faith and requests with the fact that God’s will is sovereign. What we desire may not be what God wants. God always knows better, and it is His way that supersedes and has supreme authority. God’s ways are much higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). If things do not go the way that we want, let us trust God.

For those seeking salvation and a life much better than what we find in this world, Yeshua has the answers. Let us come before the Lord Yeshua and turn away from darkness and dead works. God is ready to forgive. He pardons abundantly (e.g., Isaiah 55:7). We will not find anyone more merciful than God. God loves us as His children and wants us to be in Paradise with Him for all eternity.

7.5 Generous Reward

Paradise includes everlasting joy and harmony with our loving Father. It also comes with other perks, like good community, amazingly good food, and joyful experiences forever. This world and phase of existence are passing by. Yeshua's coming kingdom is the true existence.

This may sound too good to be true. However, Christianity actually involves hardship and suffering. Those who turn to God make themselves an enemy of the world (see James 4:4). Those who hate God hate Christians as well. They have had different names over time, e.g., workers of iniquity, oppressors, antichrists.

7.6 Next Steps

The good news is that Yeshua has already overcome the world (John 16:33). Therefore, let us believe in Yeshua, trust in Him, and wait on His salvation. While we wait, there are multiple tasks we can do:

- † Pray and formulate goals, seeking God's will as to what we should do with our lives (see John 6:27).
- † Request that God help us with our goals.

† Preserve faith in pursuing our goals despite difficulties and opposition.

We can have these next steps whether we are just starting out in Christianity or have believed in the Lord Yeshua for some time. Let us take courage and be of good cheer (see John 14:27). Simply because we encounter challenges and roadblocks does not mean that we are not in God's will. When the enemy fights with us, it does not mean that we are doing something wrong.

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NKJV

Let us live our lives for Yeshua in this world, so that we can spend eternity with Him in His coming kingdom. Faith is a major component of our new lives with Yeshua. With faith, the Red Sea parted. The sick received healing. David slayed a giant. Elijah made it rain. Let us believe in such a way that God marvels at our faith.



Figure 7.1: *Let the light of life shine within us like a surging flame. The Lord Yeshua said that with God nothing is impossible (e.g., Matthew 19:26). Yeshua endowed us with power inside and told us to let our light shine before men in such a way as to glorify God (Matthew 5:16). Let us work together as loving saints, forming a radiant blaze that brightens society and brings healing to seeking souls.*

Afterword



Thank you for making it this far through this free e-book. If this book encouraged you, please consider sharing it freely with others. I desired to draw more people towards God as our Source.

God's nature is to bless us, to teach us, and to care for us. God shows His immense mercy towards us in multiple ways. One means by which God demonstrates His mercy is by blessing us with His wisdom and rescuing us from the destruction caused by our sins.

When God saves us, He desires for us to glorify His Name. One way that we can glorify His Name is by sharing the knowledge and information that He gives us. Let us tell the world about God's goodness.

I pray that God sets a fire in your heart for Him. May the Lord Yeshua work in your heart such that you spread the flame. I pray that you thus bring more light to the world. Let us look forward to the day when the whole world is enlightened and filled with God's glory, in Yeshua's Name. Amen.

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Habakkuk 2:14 (see also Isaiah 11:9)

About the Author



Oyinlolu "Levi" Adeyanju grew up mostly in the Midwest. He trained in technical and scientific fields. However, in these last days, God has made a calling on Levi's life. Thus, Levi has been working to spread the message of Yeshua the Messiah and His coming Kingdom.

Levi writes to let people know about the grace and mercy of God and our Lord Yeshua, our hope for salvation. One of Levi's goals is to obey God in spreading His message. Levi desires for as many people as possible to be in Paradise with our Lord Yeshua for all eternity.

(Yeshua our Lord is the one people call 'Jesus,' which is the Greek version of His Name. Yeshua is not Greek.)

If you would like to reach out, Levi would like to hear from. Please feel free to email at: FreeChristianTexts@gmail.com If you would like to email a prayer request, you can use RequestLeviPrayer@gmail.com.

You can view other works online at:

Oyinlolu.com.

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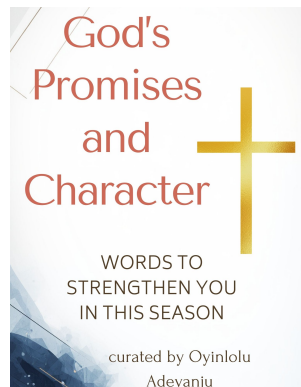
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Future Works



Additional writings and future publications by the author may include

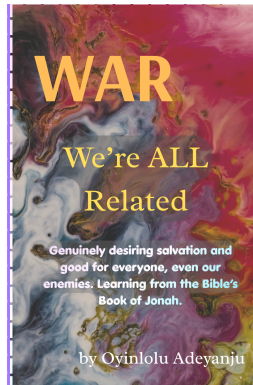
(please note that titles are tentative):



God's Promises and Character

Words to Strengthen You In This Season

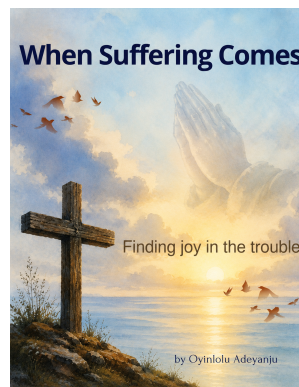
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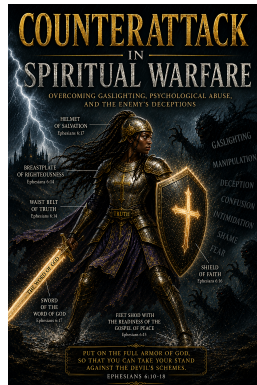
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THE VIVACITY OF FAITH

