



2 Thessalonians 2:13-14: Jun 28, 2020

Never Be Shaken

Pastor JD Farag

All right, good morning and welcome. We're glad that you're joining with us for our live stream verse by verse Bible study. Today we're in 2 Thessalonians. We're going through this epistle and we're going to finish, Lord willing, chapter 2, and our text will be verses 13 through 17. I'll ask you to turn there if you're not there already and once you do if you're able I'll ask you to stand. You can follow along as I read, if not where you're seated is fine.

The Apostle Paul turns a corner of sorts, now here at the end of the chapter and says, verse 13, "But we are always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

He called you [verse 14] to this through our gospel that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God, our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope. Encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." Wow.

Let's pray if you would join with me? Thank you, Lord, so much. Lord, we're so thankful to you and grateful to you for this time that we have together today in your Word. Lord, we never want to take for granted that which we have. This assembling of ourselves together and worshipping you and fellowshiping one with another. Now as we sit under the teaching of your Word, I pray that you'll anoint the teaching of your Word. Lord, we're so thankful to you for your Word. We ask you now as only you can to speak into our lives enable us by the Holy Spirit to focus and concentrate. We don't want our minds to be distracted. We don't want to miss anything that you have for us. So, Lord, speak your servants are listening. In Jesus name. Amen and amen. Thank you, you can be seated. Thank you.

I've really been looking forward to teaching this passage today. I want to talk with you about something that I believe is so apropos concerning the crisis and even the chaos that's in the world today. Namely that of why it is that we as believers in and followers of Jesus Christ should never be shaken. Never be moved by the evil in this world and it is seemingly waxing more and more evil with each passing day.

What follows are 4 reasons that should have the much-needed effect of keeping our sanity in a world of insanity. And I say it that way because and I know it's not just me but is what's going on insane or what? Are you kidding me? We talked about this in the prophecy date, just indulge me for a moment.

Doubtless you've heard about now because it's the "cancel culture"? That's what they call it. They're removing and erasing history, the history of the United States of America. About three weeks ago when this all started to happen, I made a comment. I'm not a prophet, I'm not the son of a prophet, but I made this comment. I said, how far back are they going to go? Are they going to go all the way back to Jesus Christ and the crucifixion and the resurrection?

Well, sure enough just this last week. I think it's one of the co-founders actually of Black Lives Matter tweeted on Twitter that every image of Jesus Christ needs to be taken down. Okay, anyway, that is, I mean, insane! The word insane doesn't even come close to describe. The world has gone crazy! But we don't need to go crazy. We can keep our sanity in an insane world.

I want to share with you 4 reasons as to why it is that we can from our text today and this first one might kind of come off a little bit strange at first. But in verse 13 it's because, "God likes you." You



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mean God loves you, right Pastor? No, I said, "God likes you." Why do you say it that way? Well, sadly we live in a day that is such that the word "like" seems to carry more weight than the word "love".

The word, love, has been marred and profaned. By profane I mean it's been made common, that's what the word, profane, means. So, when I say to you, "God loves you". Well, I mean it is just kind of ... It doesn't have the same impact like saying this, "Hey, God really likes you." He does? Yeah. He likes your posts on social media too because it's all about the likes you know. You mean he likes me? Yeah. He's not mad at me? No! I mean he likes you! He loves you!

He will never let anything happen to you because of that. There's a lot of fear. God has not, of course, given us a Spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I know my own propensity, my own proclivity to, start becoming anxious.

I struggle sometimes with anxiety and I mean I'm just being very open with you. Sometimes the anxiety, oh my goodness I'm seeing all this happen and the Lord just has to remind me just, "Hey what are you doing?" I love you so much. I mean think about it this way, how much do you love your kids? Oh, my goodness! I love my kids so much.

Well, you're an earthly fallen sinful father. I'm a perfect loving heavenly Father. If you're not going to allow anything to happen to your children inasmuch as you have the power to do that, how much more will I be with you, and protect you, and keep you? Because I love you. I think the enemy has been met, unfortunately, sadly with a measure of success when it comes to planting seeds of doubt in our minds about the love that God has for us, and what that means to us.

If you were to ask me what I thought was first and foremost the number one reason to never be shaken no matter what is happening? This would have to be it. If you're here this morning or watching online and Satan has had his way with you? He's deceived you and you believed his lies as the father of lies?

I want to encourage you to spend some time in Romans Chapter 8. To me it is one of the most powerful chapters in all of the pages of holy writ concerning the love that God has for you and me. I want to read verses 37 through 39. The Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Rome and says, "Know in all these things we are more than conquerors." I like that! We're not just conquerors; No, we're more than conquerors. Yeah! Not in and of ourselves, through Him who loved us! That's why; That's how.

Then he says this, verse 38, oh my goodness, as I read this and I know you know this, and this is a familiar passage of Scripture to most, I'm sure. But as I read this, I want you to listen through the lens and follow along through the lens of him covering every possible, anything, and everything you could think of concerning the love of God. Listen to what he says.

He says, "For I am convinced..." There's no doubt. The jury is not out; The verdict is in. I am convinced! What are you convinced of Paul? Oh, "That neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor demons, neither the present, nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation." That pretty much covers it.

I'm looking at this thing going, okay, let's see. Well, you got that. Well, that takes care of that, height/depth that takes care of that. Demons, present, future; No, takes care of that. Death, life; No, takes care of that. Nor anything else in all creation; That sums it up. "... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Nothing's going to separate you.



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Do you know what this means? Do you know what the implications of this are? This means that there's absolutely nothing you and I can do to make God love us less. I'm going to say the same thing in a different way. So too does this mean to me and you that there's nothing we can do to make God like us less. See and here is what the enemy does. He comes in, I kind of had a bad week. I didn't have a bad week, don't look at me like that. I'm just using by way of illustration.

I kind of blew it, again. Here's the enemy going... That's what he does to me anyway, I don't know if he does that to you. No, I wouldn't pray right now if I were you. Come on. I sure wouldn't go to church. Are you kidding me after what you did, again?

So here comes the condemnation. I think I'd kind of keep my distance. Give God a few days just to kind of cool down because he's had it up to here with you. He's told you till you're blue in the face. Yeah, he's kind of ticked off at you right now. No, he's not.

See, you have to understand that the enemy before we come to Christ is all about doing everything and stopping at nothing to keep us from coming to Christ. Then once we come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, he shifts his strategy. And now, now that we're saved, now that we're in Christ, he'll do everything he can to distance us from Christ.

So how is he going to do that? Oh, he comes in and starts putting these thoughts in your mind that God's kind of mad at you right now. You're not doing so good, are you? And then the condemnation and the infrastructure of guilt that he builds in your life and then you start living under the crushing weight of that? He's got you.

Because he knows that as long as he can keep you from the cross where it's all been paid for. Then you're living in that condemnation and then it's not long, you can just start the... This is really an old stopwatch. Now you have to use your phone because there's an app for that. Just push the clock, the timer, on your phone app.

It's just a matter of time before you start questioning God's love for you and then now all of a sudden here's this distance, this separation, that's been created because of it. For me the litmus test is: I know it's the Lord when it draws me nearer to him. And I know it's not the Lord when it distances me further from him.

You see, that's what the devil does. Its condemnation and that distances me from him. Conversely, the Holy Spirit convicts me and draws me nearer to him, and James says when we draw near to him, he in turn draws near to us. But Satan will do everything he can to keep us from the cross where the ultimate expression of God's love, "For no greater love hath any man that he would lay down his life for another."

Before we move on to the 2nd one, I just want to say lastly on this. This is very important. Please don't miss this. When you see what's happening in the world, it's very unsettling. But God. You need to be reminded of this one very simple yet powerful and profound truth. That God's love for you is such that he will not let even a hair on your head fall to the ground.

Now for me, he's let a lot of hair fall. I'm sorry for the humor but I'm getting some miles on that one, because I got a lot of miles on me. So, can't wait for my new body, I've already put my order in. Hey, and you're going to recognize me now, I'm going to have a huge Afro just so you know. I actually did have a huge Afro when I was a kid. Maybe that's what... anyway, I digress, enough of my problems.



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So, don't miss the point here. When you realize that God loves you so much, that much? Are you kidding me? Nothing's going to happen. He will always be with me. "Lo, He's with me always even until the ends of the earth." [Matthew 28:30]

By the way that's not just a proximity promise. That is a prophetic promise. To the end of the earth, the end of the age, the end of days, he will be with me to the end. Here's a question that I have inquired of the Lord that he has answered. Because of his love that nothing can separate me from. So, here's my question: Lord, I want the rapture to happen yesterday. If the rapture doesn't happen and we've got more time and things get really bad? And they could. That's kind of scary a little bit to me and to you too, right?

Here's the answer from the Lord, yeah, but JD, you don't have anything to worry about because I love you so much. No matter what happens I will get you through it. Yeah, but what if it gets really bad? I got to say this because... I don't gotta say it but I'm going to say it. I've been hearing, and I mentioned this a couple of weeks ago, maybe it was last week...

I've been hearing things and statements like, oh that's never going to happen. Or so and so would never let that happen and I think you know whom I'm talking about. Really? Wait. I almost picture God seated on the throne going, hello? What about me? I'm not going to let that happen to you. I love you so much. I am with you always. I will always protect you.

Here's one: I will always provide for you. You know when I make a statement like that now, today after everything that's happened? I am keenly aware of the numbers of people that are no longer employed and they're looking at this thing like, I don't know how I'm going to make the payments. I don't know how I'm going to survive. How am I going to get through this? No, no, no. Wait

God loves you. You belong to him. His children never beg bread. [Psalm 37:25] He will always provide for you! That is a promise and it's not a conditional promise by the way. But my children, because they're my children are entitled... That's a terrible word I should never have used that. Because they're my children, they're going to be the beneficiary because of my being their Father. I should have never used that word, entitled.

By the way, we are so entitled. They are actually but that's another sermon for another time. I guess you could say it that way. As a child of God, as God's people, we have this promise. We are entitled in that respect and he will always... I know this isn't proper English. Don't email me. I get enough emails as it is. But He can't not. I know it's a double negative; He can't not. It's inconsistent with who He is, His nature, His character, and because of His love.

That's what Paul is saying to them. Keep in mind that he's trying to encourage them and he's saying to them and it's replete throughout the passages that we just read that is before us today. Repeatedly, the love that God has for you, the love that God has for you, the love that God has for you.

Here's the 2nd one. It's in verse 14 and it's because God called you. Now I realize that when you talk about God's call on our lives, it might seem at first to be a firm grasp of the obvious but... [sound] What in the world was that? Yes, Lord, speak your servant... Something just fall? Okay, well, mmm.

Being called actually has a profound meaning. I know this might sound like or seem like an oversimplification but, by way of illustration, it's like, "God calling you." Think of it this way. Somebody important calls you. You're like, wow. Do you know who called me? No, who? So, and so.



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Whoa! Well, then I come along and I say, well that's nothing. Do you know who called me? God, take that! I know, that's again, by way of an illustration. He's called you.

He's called you and then you answer the call and it's an invitation. What's the invitation? Oh, it's to share in the eternal glory of Jesus Christ. That's a call I want to take. That's a call I want... I can't use that illustration either as I was doing the cell phone. That's a call that I'm going to answer and I'm going to RSVP. In other words, we were chosen to be amongst those who would receive this call from God, and we RSVP as it were in our response and that changes everything.

Listen to what Paul said to the church in Philippi. Philippians Chapter 3:13-14, he says, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it: But one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." Pressing on!

He says, verse 14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God [listen] has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." I have a call on my life. I've been called and that's what I've been called for. That's what the call is about. It's the call from God: Heavenward. Let me say it this way.

When you know that you have heaven to look forward to, it makes whatever you're going through easier to get through. That's what Paul is saying and when he writes to the Philippians, what he's saying is ...

In fact, this is the secret, by the way, to forgetting the past. Sometimes, man, the enemy's constantly popping the popcorn and live streaming the video of our past. Forget that which is behind. Forget the past. How am I going to press on? By forgetting the past. How am I going to forget the past? By pressing on. Looking ahead to what? To the eternal glory that awaits in Christ Jesus, the eternal glory in Jesus Christ.

I think of Isaiah, he says, "Happy is he whose mind is stayed on thee." [Isaiah 26:3] I love that verse. It rhymes too, someone should write a song about that. Some of the best songs are Scripture, basically. In other words, what he's saying is, show me a person who is full of joy, who is happy, who is fulfilled in life, and I'll show you somebody that's looking, their eyes on Him, not only what's happening around in the world.

Many years ago, when we lived on the mainland, we used to drive to Cannon Beach Oregon. We stayed there at a Christian conference center and this is many years ago. This is BC, not before Christ: Before Children, when we could. We would just drive down there from Spokane Washington and... nice drive. We would stay there on the beach and there is this famous Haystack Rock. It's this majestic rock and depending on the tide, it's there I mean just...

I'm kind of getting ahead of myself here but it's just right there. You sit there on the beach and you look at that rock, and I mean the waves are crashing in on it and there's turmoil all around it. Yet if you look closer, you'll see these birds and they are just singing to their Creator, oblivious to the crashing waves below. Why? Because they're looking on Him.

And that's really our 3rd one and it's in verse 15, and it's that God steadies you. Here, Paul is saying that what he's written up to this point are the compelling reasons why we should never be shaken, never be moved no matter what's happening. How? We can stand firm and hold fast. I mean, you know how... You can't see me behind the pulpit.

By the way, online, I need to clear something up. I am six feet tall and shrinking. No, I have to say that because people come and visit - when they could. Before the quarantine and then the snitches



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reporting them and then they get fined \$5000. Anyway, I didn't mean to go there. Don't come to Hawaii right now unless you plan on staying for a long time.

So, when people were coming they would say, you're much taller in person. I'm like, really? And I realized that the pulpit, first of all, we changed the camera angle, I'll do anything I can to... Those guys back there have treasures in heaven. They make me look better than I deserve but it's a kind of a... I'm not short. Everybody thinks I'm short. Now that was really... I'm actually going somewhere with that.

If I stand like if I go like this, I'm still six feet tall and shrinking I want you to know, but I'm standing firm. If I'm standing like this? You could just knock me over as I'm not standing firm. I've got my feet firmly planted and I'm standing. I dare you. Come on, make my day because I'm standing firm. You can't move me because I'm standing firm and I'm holding fast!

Well, what are you standing firm on and holding fast to? The Word of God and the God of the Word and you can't move me because I am rock-solid. I'm on that rock. I don't care what the waves are doing! I don't care how hard they're crashing because I'm on the rock.

There's a parable in Matthew 7 that Jesus teaches. Very interesting parable. You know it as the builders, right? You have 2 builders who have a lot in common apparently. They were both building their house at the same time. They must have got their permits at the same time. I don't know why I went there. It took us a year to get the permit on this building but anyway.

So, they got their permits and they're both building at the same time. It appears that they also both went to the same church because both had heard the words of Jesus Christ. But that's where the similarities stopped.

So, you've got two builders; They're both building. But the difference between them is that one built on the sand and one built on the rock. So that when, not if, the storm hit the one on the sand came crashing down, and what a crash it was. But not the one who built on the rock.

Well, what was the difference between the one who built on the rock and the one who built on the sand? Jesus answers that question. The one who built on the rock put into practice the words of Jesus. They both heard Him. But just hearing is not enough.

James says you can be a hearer of God's word but not a doer of God's word. [James 1:22] The one who did not come crashing down when, not if, the storm hit was the one who put the word into practice. He was a doer of the word. He heard it but he also did it, applied it, lived it, and that was the difference. That's how we hold fast and stand firm on the Rock, the rock-solid foundation which is the Word of God.

Here's the thing. I want to say this as lovingly... please, I hope you know my heart. I don't mean to beat up on anybody. I'll beat upon myself, okay? I'll use myself as an example. Do you know when I am the weakest and the most vulnerable? Is when I've gone a period of time without being in the Word of God. Man, I'm a sitting duck with a capital, Sitting, and a capital, Duck, for the enemy, and the enemy knows it too because he's roaring around. He's very patiently stalking us waiting for that optimum time to attack.

You've probably heard it. It's a cute clever quip and cliché but, "one week without prayer makes one weak." I'll give you a moment on that. One week, seven days, without prayer or the Word makes one weak, W-E-A-K. Tell me you got that because that's as good as it's going to get.



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How does faith come? It comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God and putting the Word of God into practice and doing the Word of God. James says [James 1:23], if you just hear the Word of God, you're like this guy that looks in the mirror, the perfect mirror of God's Word, God's law, which shows us, us. I look through here and you know it's like you're looking in the mirror, oh wow! I'm seeing me as God sees me and it's not pretty.

So, I'm looking at myself in the mirror and what do I do in the morning when I look at myself in the mirror? Well, first of all I say, Lord, come quickly because oh my goodness. My son took a picture on his phone - of me! He showed it to me and I was like, No! Wow, Lord Jesus come quickly, please. So anyway, when I look at myself in the mirror I say, okay, I need to do something about this. You ladies, you can put makeup on. We can't do that.

Hair needs to be dealt with and as you get older, I'm not going to get graphic but it's not fair. Hair grows where it shouldn't and it doesn't grow where it used to. I mean, what's up with that, anyway. You're looking at yourself in the mirror, and you're saying I need to do something about that hair there. I need to brush those teeth. I need to shave that ugly mug. I need to do something about what I'm seeing.

That's what James is saying. If you are just a hearer of the word, you're going to hear the word and then you're like the guy that looks in the mirror and then walks away and does nothing. By the way, thank you so much for what you did this morning before you came here after you looked in the mirror. You look marvelous, all of you.

That's the point Acts Chapter 20, verses 22 through 24, I love this so much. If you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, you've really gotten to know the Apostle Paul. We actually studied through the Book of Acts many years ago. I think we spent almost two years in the book of Acts, verse by verse.

But there's this one chapter, Chapter 20 I want to read verses 22 through 24. So, here's the back story. Paul has been warned, actually prophesied that when he goes to Jerusalem he's going to be arrested, incarcerated, put in prison and Paul's like, hey, it is what it is.

So, listen to what he says and see "Now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem not knowing the things that will happen to me there except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city saying that chains and tribulations await me." But verse 24, and I have this underlined, "None of these things move me." I'm not shaken. I'm not moved; I'm not phased.

Wow, Paul, what's your secret? I'm so glad you asked. It's because, "I do not count my life dear to myself." See when you've lost your life in this world, nothing is going to move you. If you're holding on too tightly to this world and the things of this world, then you're going to be impacted in a profound way by everything that happens. You're going to be shaken easily.

But if you've disenfranchised yourself, disconnected yourself, died to yourself, and the things of this world? Then whatever happens in the world, it doesn't move you. He says, "So that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Can I just sum this up? Paraphrase what Paul is saying here? Bring it on. Yeah, that's what he's saying, bring it on. I've already died to myself; I've already lost my life in this world. I don't count my life worth anything. It's not dear to me. The only thing that is dear to me is the call that God has on me, and the testimony of the gospel of the grace of God.



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This is the last one in verses 16 and 17 and it's that God encourages us. Man, I could do a whole sermon on just encouragement and you know that I can. This is a biggie. Because we, and I know I don't just speak for myself, we can easily become discouraged. Would you agree? Especially in these times in which we're living it's just so easy to become discouraged and the danger is when that discouragement gives way to despair.

I love what Oswald Chambers once said. He said, "God never faults a man for despair." Even the Apostle Paul, we're told despaired of life. He just came to the place in his life where he was just like you know... and throughout Scripture, he's in good company. Men and even women, mightily used of God in Scripture, despaired of life.

I think about Job. My goodness if there was ever a man that had every reason to despair of life. He even asked God to take his life. Elijah, same thing. After the contest with the false prophets of Baal there on Mt. Carmel, and then after that miraculous amazing victory. Talk about being more than a conqueror. The many years that Jezebel has got a hit on him, a contract on his life. So, he runs for his life and he wants God to take his life.

I think about Joshua. Man, if there's ever a guy... How would you like to be the successor of Moses? I mean, Joshua, you're in... No! No! No! That's why the first chapter of Joshua, God's like, "Be strong and courageous." Why would He tell him that several times, numerous times? Count them, I forget how many times. Be strong and courageous. Why? Because he was not strong and not courageous. There were some big slippers and sandals to fill. He was so discouraged. He felt so weak, so incapable.

And that's a good place to be by the way because God chooses the weak to confound the strong, right? And he does it so he alone gets the glory. That's why he calls the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. So, he alone gets the glory, no flesh is going to glory in his presence.

So, let's talk about encouragement. I don't know if it's possible to overstate the importance of what Paul is saying here. He says, in effect, "Be encouraged." He's praying actually, for them that God would encourage and strengthen their hearts and notice it's specific, he says, "... with eternal encouragement." That's key, why? Because that does encourage me knowing that this isn't how it ends. This is not my final destination. I mean if this is how it ends? This is as good as it gets?

I remember in high school we were always told your high school years are the best years of your life. I'm like, really? This is it? This is it! From here on out it's all downhill! This is the best and some... Anyway, I did not have a good high school experience I want you to know. I was a teacher's kid, I was always in trouble, I got suspended, almost got expelled. I barely graduated and when we finally had our graduation, I came up with... You know the motto for the graduating class? I'm not proud of this.

It's really just to give you an example of how God chooses the foolish to confound the wise. I actually suggested that our motto... You know how, it was gold at the other end of the rainbow. You know those wonderful inspirational... Do you know what mine was? My suggestion for our motto for graduation was, "We've come out of our coma to receive our diploma."

I just want you to know that your pastor is the foolish that God chooses to confound the wise. You need look no further, okay? All right. I'm the poster child, all right? So there. Anyway, back to our sermon already in progress here. I was making a very profound point.

But he's praying for them that God would encourage and strengthen their hearts with the eternal hope. Because listen Thessalonians, listen Locals, listen online church: This is not how it ends. You've



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probably heard it said for the Christian this is the most hell we will ever know. And for the non-Christian, it goes both ways. This is the most heaven they will ever know. It's kind of sobering a little bit, isn't it?

You're sitting here, you're watching online, you're saying, I have been really discouraged lately, especially lately. Everything is falling apart. The bottom is fallen out. I mean it's just I don't know. I want to encourage you not just with a "canned Christian cliché". I want to encourage you this way.

I want to encourage you and say to you on the authority of God's Word and God's love: That you have no reason to be discouraged because of the glory that awaits. It's not much longer. The sufferings of this life, Paul said, are not even worthy to be compared with the glory that awaits.

I mean what is our lives here on this earth? I mean we live to 70, 80, 90 whatever it is. What's that compared to eternity? You cannot. We are outside of time; We are in eternity. There's no measurement of time. Yeah, we have a hard life, riddled with difficulty, and trials, and suffering, and pain and maybe it's 90 years of that. It's still worth it in light of eternity. A trillion years...

You know when you go in for a job interview, and they always ask you those questions like, where do you see yourself five years from now? Oh, I'd love to be able to be asked that question. Where do I see myself five years from now? Okay, so I'm like going to be 58 this year. Five years from now? I see myself in glory at the rate that everything is happening.

Well, now think about that. That's not that long. Okay 10 years from now? That's still not that long. Okay, 20 years from now? You know who you are, some of you are saying, can you go like 30? Fine, 30 years from now. It's still not that long in comparison with eternity. You be encouraged. You be encouraged and be strengthened in your heart.

I want to close with a passage of Scripture that God has used in my life. It's become really a life-verse as it were for me in Psalm 27 verses 13 and 14. Actually, there were 3 specific times in my life over the years that God brought this to me, reminded me of this, and it got me through some very dark times. One time was on the mainland going through a very difficult time there. The second time was when our daughter Noel died, and then the third time was a little bit more recently after we finished the completion of the remodeling of the building.

It's a Psalm of David and you really kind of get a glimpse into the heart of this man who had a heart after God's own heart. Listen very carefully to what he says because he's being very honest when he says, [Psalm 27:13] "I would have lost heart." I was this close. "Unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

Then he says this and he's talking to himself. This is different than self-talk. This is talking to self. I'll explain the difference. Self-talk is you know self talking to you, you stupid idiot. That's what my self always says to me. You have to be careful with self-talk, yeah? You listen to yourself, you live in your head and that's self-talk. But sometimes you just need to have a talk with self. Sit down, boy, we need to talk and you talk to yourself.

Like in Psalm 42 and 43 which some believe are actually one Psalm, two Psalms in our Bible. Where David says more than once, "O my soul," he's talking to himself. Why are you so downcast? Why are you so discouraged? Why are you in such despair? For you will again have reason to praise the Lord, and that's what he's doing here.



2 Thessalonians 2:13-14: Jun 28, 2020

Never Be Shaken

Pastor JD Farag

Listen to what he says, "Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart." And he says it a second time, to himself. "Wait, I say on the Lord." Let me, if you don't mind, I'm just going to sum it up again with two words. Actually, four words, I just counted them. Just wait; You'll see. That's 4 right? Yeah, 4 words. Just wait; You'll see.

Have you ever said that or heard that? Just wait; You'll see. That's what he is saying. I mean, I came this close I would have lost heart. I would have thrown in the towel. I mean that's it! It came that close. And then it was when I realized and remembered and believed. Wait a minute, God is good. God loves me and I'm going to see God.

Romans 8:28, we love the quote. I don't know how God's going to do it. I don't know when God's going to do it. I don't know the way God's going to do it but here's what I do know by faith. I know that God is going to do it. What's God going to do? He's going to work this out for the good. I'm going to see good. Just wait, you'll see. Yeah, but it's really bad. I know, just wait, you'll see.

Do you know what our problem is? We don't like that "just wait" part. I want to see. But isn't that the antithesis of faith? We want to walk by sight. Oh man everything within me. We say, seeing is believing. Do you know what God's word says? Believing is seeing. I have believed that I would see. Believing is seeing by faith through the eyes of faith.

God, I don't know how you're going to do this. I guess I'm going to have to wait. I can't wait. But I can't wait to see what you're going to do with this because this is a doozy. And it's like God is just going, did you just say that? Yeah. Oh, watch me now! Watch me now! Watch and see!

Behold the salvation of the Lord. Get out my way. You might want to stand back for this. Watch what I'm going to do. Did you say that you're going to wait? And that you believe that you'll see my goodness? Ho. Good answer; Right answer. Now watch what I'm going to do. I'm going to flip that around and then we'll close.

This will be my final closing. Since I already said that I was going to close. Without faith, we're told in Hebrews, it's impossible to please God. Let's flip it around, okay? That means that if we have faith that must be really pleasing to God. You know what is striking to me in the gospels is when Jesus takes notice of somebody's faith and he points it out. Teachable moment, I've not seen faith like this. Then on the other side of that too when he goes to his hometown, a prophet is without honor in his own... He could not do much there. In fact, he could hardly do anything there, why? Because of their unbelief. They didn't have the faith.

So, think about this, think this through with me. If faith is pleasing to the Lord and I exercise faith. I don't like the word exercise. My wife loves to exercise. I don't think there's going to be any exercising in heaven. I'm pretty sure of that. Anyway, I digress.

But if we exercise faith it is so pleasing to God that God responds because he's so pleased by that faith. And when he does, is there anything too hard for the Lord? I can stand before you as is my privilege to and testify to you that I have seen God do the impossible in my life over the years. And I'm not saying that it's because I'm this great man of faith.

Oh, my goodness, there were times where I'm like, no way. It's like God just, did you just say, no way? Yeah there's no way. God says, way. Watch me. See what I'm going to do. Trust me to do big things. I think sometimes we pray too small when we have such a big God.



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I think about when Jesus, not angrily... I'd never imagine he had a harsh tone with the disciples. It was more like a pathetic pity. He felt sorry for them, why is your faith so little? When your God is so big why did you doubt? If you would have just but believed. Just believe that I can do it. That's all.

I don't know what your situation is that you're dealing with, but I can testify to you that God is able and he just wants you to believe him. Put your trust in him. Have the faith. Just say, God, I admit I don't know how you're going to do it, but you are God. Good thing and you're the God of the impossible. I'm looking at this thing and it's impossible to which I can just hear God.

I know in my own life experienced this where it's almost like God saying, JD it's about time. Because sometimes when it's possible for me, it's not possible for God, because I try to do it myself. Then I finally come to the end of myself and I throw up my hands and say, God I just can't do this. Duh! Can I do it now? Yeah! It's impossible! Well, I can do the impossible.

Sometimes I think God allows us to come to that place just for that reason. He's just waiting there lovingly, patiently, and we're just bludgeoning ourselves, and beating ourselves up and trying in the energy of our own flesh, trying to figure it out, work it out. It's like God is just going, let me know when you're done. I'm here, just at the ready. And when you come to him and you say, God I can't. He says, I can. Will you let me?

That's the 3-step program by the way. Step #1. Realize you can't. Step #2. Know he can and step #3. Let him. Let Him.

Why don't you stand and we'll pray? Father, thank you. Thank you so much, Lord. Lord, I just pray that you'll take this teaching today and as only you can by the Holy Spirit just fine-tune it to that discouraged heart, that weary soul.

Lord, I think about when you said to the disciples, [Matthew 11:28] "Come to me all you who are heavy-laden and weary and I will give you rest for your soul. My burden is light. My yoke is easy"

Lord, I just pray for anyone who has come to that place where they are at the end of themselves and shaken to the core. But that need be no more. I pray that you would steady them, encourage them, strengthen them.

Thank you. In Jesus name. Amen.